

Wrestling

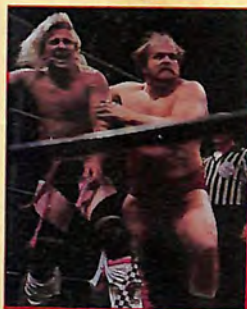
**Who Gave Kamala
This Gruesome Order?
"BRING ME THE HEAD OF
HULK HOGAN!"**

Exclusive Coverage:

**STARRCADE
'86
THE BEST YET!**



The Midnight Express vs. The Road Warriors



**Rock 'n' Rolls
vs. Andersons**



**Nikita Koloff
vs. Ric Flair**

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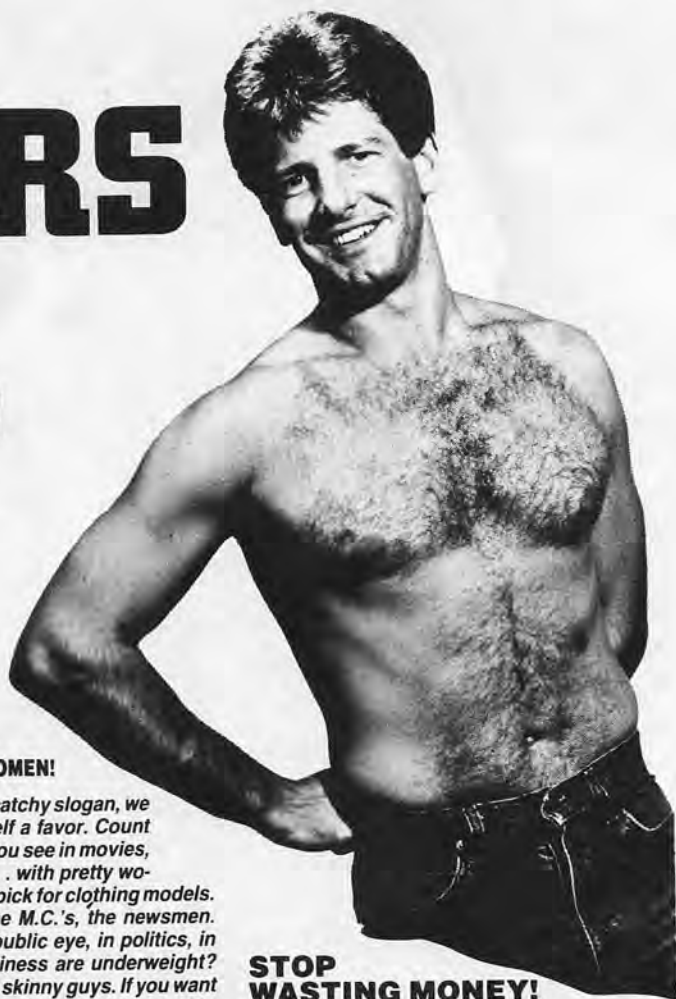
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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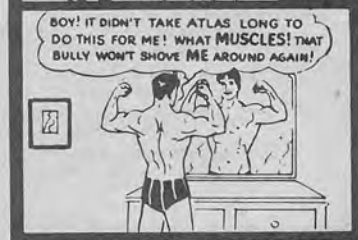


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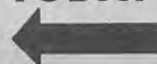
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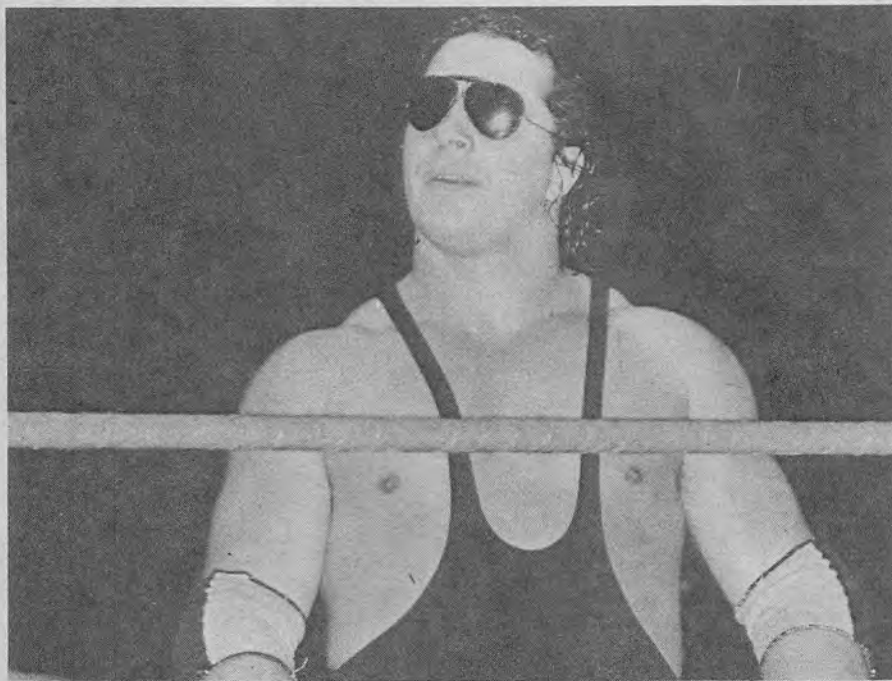
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THE WWF'S TOP 50

I was thrilled to find an article on the top 50 stars of the WWF in the January 1987 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* ("Special Section: Rating The Top 50 Stars In The WWF").

However, as I looked through the list, my happiness turned to dismay.

I loved your special section on the Top 50 in the WWF, but how can Billy Jack Haynes be number 22 when in the same issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, he was number 10 in the WWF ratings? You guys can say what you want, but Billy Jack is 10 times better than King Kong Bundy, Adrian



Brett Hart should have been ranked much higher than 23rd in the January issue's ratings of the top 50 WWF stars, writes David Marshall, who also believes that Butch Reed and Rick Martel were ranked too high.

Brett Hart finished 23rd behind some lackluster wrestlers. How can Butch Reed be ranked higher when he just entered the WWF a month or two ago? Rick Martel was 15th and he too entered the WWF a short time ago. Does anyone know why he is in the WWF? I'll tell you why: He got kicked out of Canadian wrestling by Steve Strong, a 295-pound powerhouse who makes Hulk Hogan look the size of his doll and Rick Martel look the size of a thumb wrestler.

I was also surprised that Kamala was 34th. I have never seen him get pinned by anyone in the WWF, except for Andre (The Giant Machine). You also ranked George Steele behind Dan Spivey. Was this a joke? I'm glad someone wrote an article on the top 50 of the WWF, but next time, think a little more before you publish your results.

DAVID MARSHALL
Malone, NY

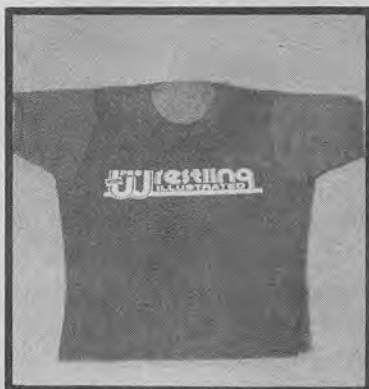
Adonis, Junkyard Dog, Harley Race, and Andre The Giant (who has, I might add, suddenly disappeared).

A few more comments on the article: Adrian Adonis should have been number 40, at best. Number 19 is ridiculous because this fat homo has no wrestling ability whatsoever. Dynamite Kid at number six and Davey Boy Smith at number eight says a lot about the knowledge of your editors. Even though they usually wrestle as a team, it's obvious to me that they're both tremendous wrestlers. Rick Steamboat was rated number five, but I think he's better than Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff.

On the other end of the ratings, you guys really scraped the bottom of the barrel for numbers 41-50, but you hit paydirt on George Steele. People might cheer him, but he's possibly the worst wrestler in the entire federation. Brutus Beefcake (number 44) really is a bad

(Continued on page 46)

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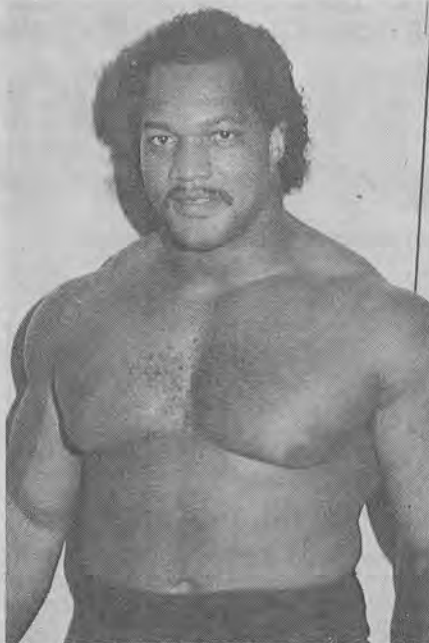
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THE TATTLER

TAMPA, FL: Rookie Ron Simmons pinned Kareem Muhammad for the Florida title here on December 2, just one week after Muhammad had taken the belt from Barry Windham by using a foreign object.

"There was no doubt about this victory," said Simmons. "I saw the way Muhammad beat Barry and I knew that he didn't deserve the belt. Now I got it and I plan to defend it with the honor such a title deserves. The Florida fans can be confident that I will do my best to keep this belt in its proper hands."

Simmons' victory is noteworthy, considering that he made his pro debut in early October. He quickly rose in the Florida ratings and won the title just two months after his first match. This incredible feat drew



RON SIMMONS

praise from many people involved in Florida wrestling.

"I'm really proud of Ronnie because we played football together in the USFL and now we've got the two most important titles in Florida," said Southern champion Lex Luger. "The only problem is that this frees up Muhammad to go after my title a little harder," he added with a laugh.

"Young Simmons' rise is one of the most impressive in Florida wrestling history," said veteran commentator Gordon Solie. "Mr. Luger also made an incredible rise, I believe he was Southern champion within three weeks of his debut, and this ranks right up there. We're going to be seeing a lot of Mr. Simmons."

—Barry Simon

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NEW YORK: "Honky Tonk Man" Wayne Farris, disgruntled by a poll that said that he was not liked by WWF fans, has taken on Jimmy Hart as his manager.

The WWF held the mail-in poll to assess the popularity of The Honky Tonk Man, who came to the area in September. Reportedly, over 60,000 fans responded to the poll and the overwhelming majority were against The Honky Tonk Man. Dismayed by his failure to win over the fans, The Honky Tonk Man obviously decided that he was better off as a rulebreaker.

The relationship between Farris and Hart can be traced back to Memphis. "Wayne and Jimmy were both rulebreakers and very good
(Continued on page 56)

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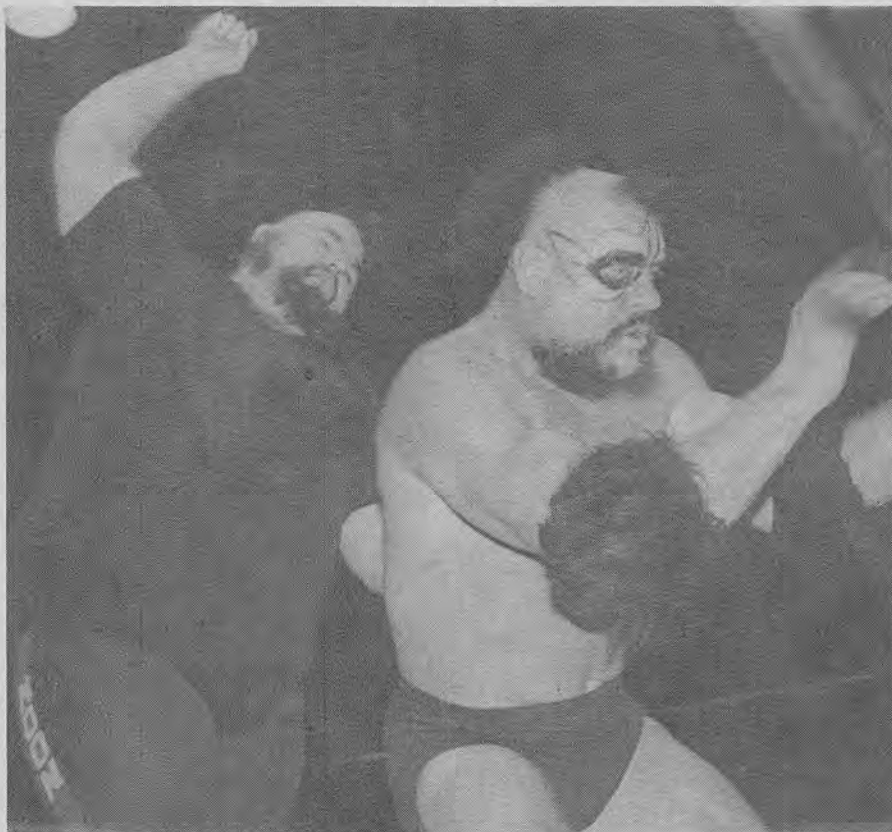
"Should the UWF heavyweight championship be elevated to world title status?"

THE ANSWERS:

Cassie Tompkins, Tulsa, OK: "It darn well should! Just because you guys don't recognize it as a world title doesn't mean that it isn't. Although he didn't win the belt fair and square, Terry Gordy defended his title against world-caliber opponents like Steve Williams and Ted DiBiase. And even though he lost by forfeit to One Man Gang, Gordy still proved himself a worthy champion. If the WWF and AWA deserve world championship status, then the UWF certainly does."

William Floymin, Newark, DE: "My answer is an emphatic 'No!' There is no reason to add any new world titles to the sport of wrestling. The situation is out of hand already. If you ask me, every effort should be made to eliminate two of the three world champions already in existence. How can there be more than one world champion? It's absurd. If there are three world champions, there are no world champions."

Ben Sanfillippo, Kokomo, IN: "One area that will not receive universal recognition in my book is the UWF. One



UWF champion One Man Gang pounds away on Missing Link. The perception of OMG as an incomplete wrestler has tarnished the image of the UWF title and makes it difficult for some fans to seriously consider the thought of making the UWF title a world title.

big reason is Terry Gordy. Now if a guy like Gordy can hold their belt for so long, how good can the wrestlers there be? You're talking about a guy who has wrestled in tag teams for most of his career. He's not much of a singles wrestler at all. I know the whole federation shouldn't be judged by one

man, but the UWF just isn't ready yet."

Sam LaPorte, Buffalo, NY: "I pride myself on having a very extensive collection of wrestling videotapes from all over the world, so I've seen most of
(Continued on page 52)

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From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

WRESTLING'S GREATEST COVERUP of 1986 was so successful that the public had no idea what was going on until a month after it was all over. On December 23, 1986, the February issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* went on sale with the following story: "Hawk's Leg Broken In Two Places: Can The Road Warriors Ever Be The Same Again." By then, it was too late.

Call it Wrestlegate, Hawkgate, or Crockettgate, but by any name, it was still a coverup, a fraud of the highest order. Road Warrior Hawk broke his leg 29 days prior to The Road Warriors' scaffold match against The Midnight Express at Starrcade '86 in Atlanta, and nobody, except for Hawk, Animal, Paul Ellering, Jim Cornette, certain high-ranking officials in the NWA offices, and a few wrestling journalists, knew anything about it.

We accuse the NWA and Jim Crockett Promotions of denying the public its right to know about the injury and, most important, subjecting Hawk to a situation in which he might have done further, and possibly permanent, damage to his leg.

The Road Warriors were on a tour of Japan, wrestling All-Japan International tag team champions Yoshiaki Yatsu and Riki Choshu, when the injury occurred. Hawk was the victim of



Unbeknownst to the fans at Starrcade '86, Road Warrior Hawk (second from left on the scaffold) had a broken leg when he wrestled this match against The Midnight Express. This reckless action could have cost Hawk his career. Jim Crockett Promotions is accused of covering up Hawk's injury.

a crushing Yatsu backdrop and came down on the fibula of his left leg, breaking the bone in two places.

Jim Crockett Promotions was immediately informed of the accident and held a meeting to decide what actions should be taken. The doctors' prognosis was that it would take from four to six weeks for Hawk's leg to heal, followed by a brief rehabilitation period. Starrcade, and the big scaffold match that was the centerpiece of the World Championship Wrestling's most important card of the year, was four weeks and a day away.

The decision was to clam up, not let anything out. There was still a chance,

however slim, that Hawk would be able to wrestle, and there was no reason to risk ticket sales on such a questionable matter. In fact, Hawk insisted from the start that he would wrestle at Starrcade, whether injured or not. Being a man of honesty, not to mention great courage, Hawk's words were apparently good enough for World Championship Wrestling.

There was also the matter of opponents taking advantage of Hawk's injury. If Hawk *did* wrestle at Starrcade and The Midnight Express was aware of the injury, there was an excellent chance that Dennis Condrey and Bob-

(Continued on page 54)

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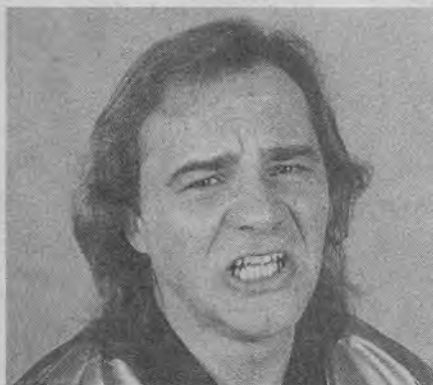
Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

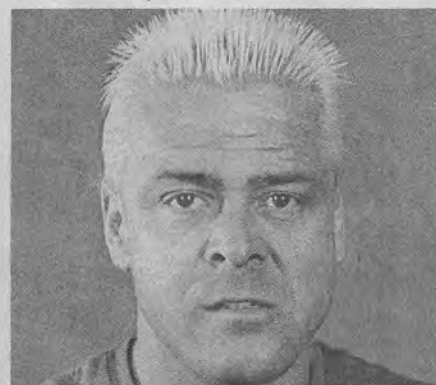
**"Do you still see
yourself wrestling
10 years from
now?"**

**Submitted by:
Tracey Osbern,
Granite City, IL**



LARRY ZBYSZKO

"Hey, you shouldn't be asking *me* that. Ask the spudheads who sit in their lounge chairs and eat their potato chips and drink their beer if *they'll* still be working in 10 years. Those out-of-shape bozos have no right to offend a finely tuned athlete like myself. I've been in this game for 14 glorious years, and I intend to spread my glory around a lot more before I'm gone. Don't worry, fans, I ain't goin' nowhere!"



RON GARVIN

"As everybody knows, I'm a pretty tough individual. I know I'm getting older, but I still feel very good. But there are some guys around here who think it's time for me to hang it up. Anybody who knows me knows I have no intention of doing that. They wouldn't be surprised to see me in this sport 10, maybe 15, years from now. I feel like I still have a shot at Ric Flair's World title. That's why I'll be around for a while."



STAN HANSEN

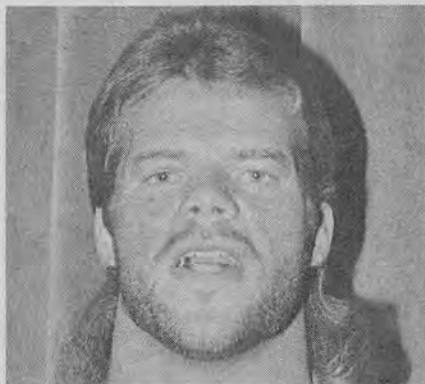
"You know I've always enjoyed beatin' people up and I always will. I don't see no reason to stop now or 10 years from now. Hell, in 10 years there's gonna be a long trail of broken bones around the world. I enjoy doing what I do and getting the money I get. In 10 years I'll have 10 more years of experience. Nobody better even think about tellin' me to retire, 'cause I'll hit him upside the head with my cowbell."



RICK MORTON

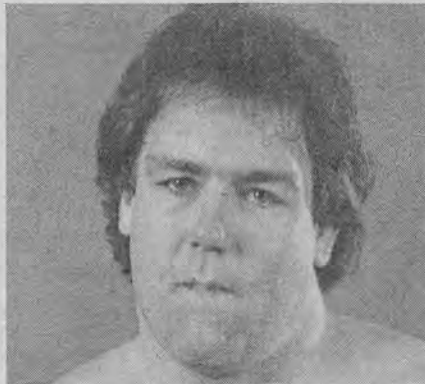
"You know, that's something I never thought about before. Me and Robert [Gibson] try to take what's coming to us day-to-day, 'cause that's the only way to live. As for the future, my plans are wide open. It's too soon to really worry about what I'll be doing in 10 years. The Rock 'n' Roll Express is what's on my mind now. Regaining the NWA tag team belts from Manny Fernandez and Rick Rude is the important thing right now."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



LEX LUGER

"If what everybody is saying to me is correct, I'll be wrestling—even dominating the sport—for the next 20 years. I appreciate the compliments, but I have to follow my own conscience. When it comes right down to it, you know your own body better than anyone else does. You know when to push yourself, and when to hold back. Only I'll know when it's time to hang it up."



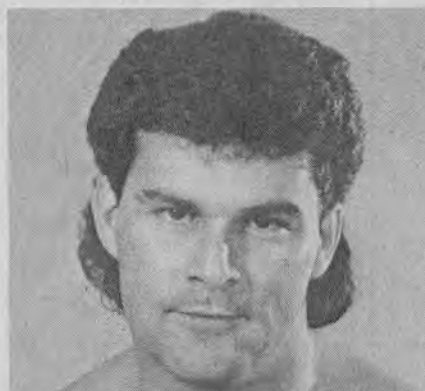
TULLY BLANCHARD

"Believe it or not, The Four Horsemen and I were just discussing this. We're building an empire that's gonna last for a long time, my friend. We want to control all the situations around us. We're all born leaders and champions. Like I was telling J.J. Dillon, it's like it was meant for us to be the top guns. That's a great feeling. So in 10 years, watch out. I'll still be on top."



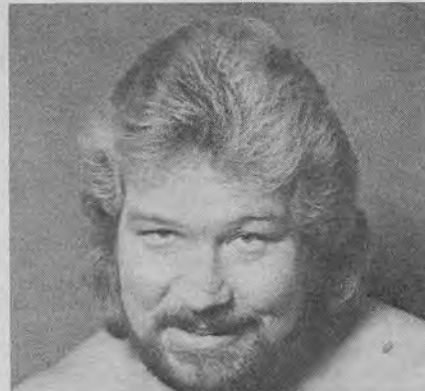
TERRY GORDY

"Let's see. Ten years from now, I'll be celebrating my 10th year as UWF champion. Yeah, that's sounds right. And The Freebirds will be celebrating their 10th year as tag team champions. And one of us will be celebrating his 10th year as TV champion. Boy, the future sure does look bright, don't it? Freebird Fantasia everywhere you look. I pity the poor slobs who don't see it our way. They're gonna get hurt."



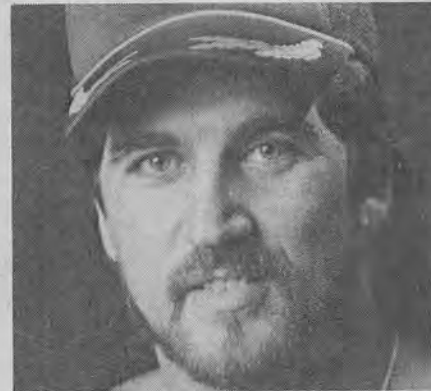
BRIAN ADIAS

"Man, right now I feel like I'll be wrestling 10 years from now, sure. I feel like I'm born again, and I like this life a lot better. After what I did to that punk Mike Von Erich, I feel unstoppable. I'm never gonna let the Von Erichs hold me down again, like they did for all these years. Soon I'll have the title I was meant to have all along, and then I'll rule Texas for as long as I want to. Ten years from now I'll be at my peak."



TED DiBIASE

"All I can think about now is how I'm going to win the UWF title. That's the most important thing. Who knows what I'll be doing in 1997? I could be wrestling, but I might be in business somewhere, or I might be a bum on the street. I don't want to start predicting the future when there's so much going on right here. So many things can happen between now and then."



WENDELL COOLEY

"Since I've only been wrestling for a couple of years, that's kind of a hard question to answer. I enjoy wrestling down here in Alabama and I appreciate the support from all the great fans. I don't like to predict the future, but I hope that in 10 years I'll be wrestling even better than I am now. There's a lot of room for improvement; after all, I'm not the world champion ... yet."

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October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Laughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

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October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

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December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

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May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Grahams, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita, Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

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ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

THE LOOK ON Jim Cornette's face said it all. He figured it was a farce, a publicity stunt perhaps, designed to scare him and The Midnight Express, but when The Road Warriors were announced and Hawk emerged from the dressing room, right alongside Animal and manager Paul Ellering, he realized that it wasn't a dream. Starrcade '86 would become Cornette's nightmare.

Some 17 minutes later, Dennis Condrey came flying down from the 20-foot high scaffold, giving The Road Warriors the victory. Then Cornette, who is deathly afraid of heights, got cornered by Animal and Ellering at the top of the scaffold. And Cornette, too, came flying down.

But even these events could not match the feeling Cornette had when Hawk appeared. Twenty-nine days earlier, The Road Warriors were on tour in Japan, wrestling All-Japan International tag team champions Yoshiaki Yatsu and Riki Choshu. Yatsu delivered a tremendous backdrop to Hawk, who came crashing down on the fibula of his left leg. The bone broke in two places.

The NWA, hoping that Hawk would return in time for Starrcade, did not publicize the incident (see "We Accuse," page 12). However, in last month's issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, we reported in-depth on the injury. During the four weeks preceding Starrcade, few fans knew of the injury. Cornette, however, did know, and had a hard time controlling his ecstasy. "The Legion of Doom is doomed," he said at one point.

No guts, no glory. No pain, no gain. Say what you will. Hawk *did* wrestle at Starrcade, despite his enormous pain. He took the chance of further injuring his leg and, considering the inherent risks of a scaffold match, put his entire career on the line. Road Warrior Hawk proved his courage and determination. He's our "Wrestler of the Month" for March.

"The amazing thing was that very few fans knew about the injury, so when The Road Warriors came out, they got the response they always get," said Senior Editor Bill Apter, who was at the Thanksgiving Day spectacular in Atlanta. "Cornette knew, though, and his face got all flushed and sweaty. I think he figured that at the very most, Hawk would come out in crutches or in a cast and just stand at one end of the platform while Animal did all the work. When Hawk came out looking good as new, he was shocked."

Almost the entire staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* agreed that Hawk's act was extremely courageous and worthy of his selection. "I spoke to a couple of doctors

before writing the story on Hawk and they all said there was no way he could return so fast," said Craig Peters. "He's basically a medical miracle."

The lone dissenter was Managing Editor Stu Saks. "People tend to confuse courage with stupidity some times," said Saks. "I'm a big fan of the Warriors, but what if Hawk had fallen and broken his leg again or cost his team the win? He's a professional athlete and should have more respect for his body than to put it on the line for no reason at all. The Midnight Express doesn't even have the tag titles anymore. I vote for [UWF champion] One Man Gang."

Hawk's injury was supposed to keep him out of action for at least four to six weeks, and when he did return it was expected that he would go through a brief rehabilitation period. A scaffold match was certainly out of the question. "It is very important that Hawk's leg heal correctly or permanent damage could result," said one physician.

Characteristically, however, Hawk was defiant. "I don't give a damn," he was quoted as saying in the February 1987 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*. "I'm getting up on that scaffold and I'm gonna beat the snot out of The Midnight Express the way they need to have the snot beaten out of them! Broken leg in two places? Nothing to it. To keep me out of the ring, you've got to do a lot more to me than that. A hell of a lot more."

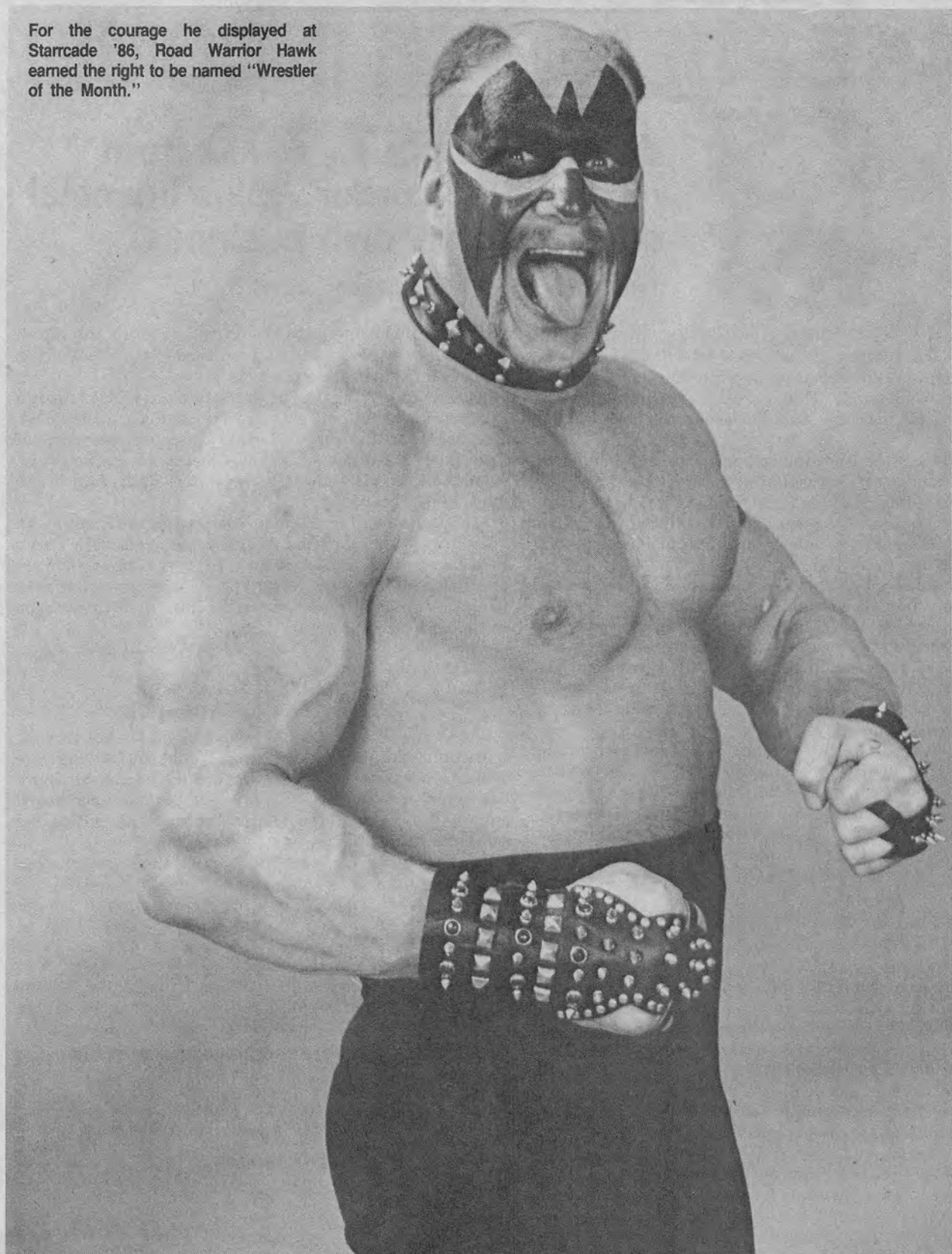
The key to Hawk's quick recovery was a healing process prescribed by sports medicine doctor Frederick Mosley of Minnesota. Hawk was treated with electrolisis, an electrical form of treatment. He also had casts designed by Dr. Joseph Estwanick, who treated Dusty Rhodes' broken ankle last year, and had them changed weekly.

"Only the best for the best," said Ellering. "I wouldn't subject my men to any voodoo doctors. I found out who were the best out there and got 'em for Hawk. He said that he wanted to wrestle at Starrcade and I promised him that I'd do my best to help."

Like Ellering promised, the injury only added to The Road Warriors' killer instinct. Perhaps fueled by the pain of the injury, Hawk seemed more determined than ever. Knowing that he might have to carry more of his team's weight, Animal showed the ferocity of a tiger cat.

The Road Warriors are back. The intensity, the killer instinct, the drive, all returned on one night in Atlanta. "The Night of The Skywalkers" belonged to Road Warrior Hawk, a most deserved "Wrestler of the Month." □

For the courage he displayed at Starrcade '86, Road Warrior Hawk earned the right to be named "Wrestler of the Month."



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"About that time I got injured and ended up having to move my family to a different area to take a job as a maintenance mechanic. That idea of controlling my own destiny kept gnawing at me. By now I had five children with extra expense of about \$2,400 a year sending the oldest one to a speech and hearing center.

"How could a guy like me save up enough money to start my own business? To get into most businesses you have to own a corner of Fort Knox. If I could only ease into a business without giving up the regular salary I had to count on to put food on the table. And without making any investment. As long as I was dreaming, wouldn't it be great to find something where every single spare time order could bring in *really big* extra money.

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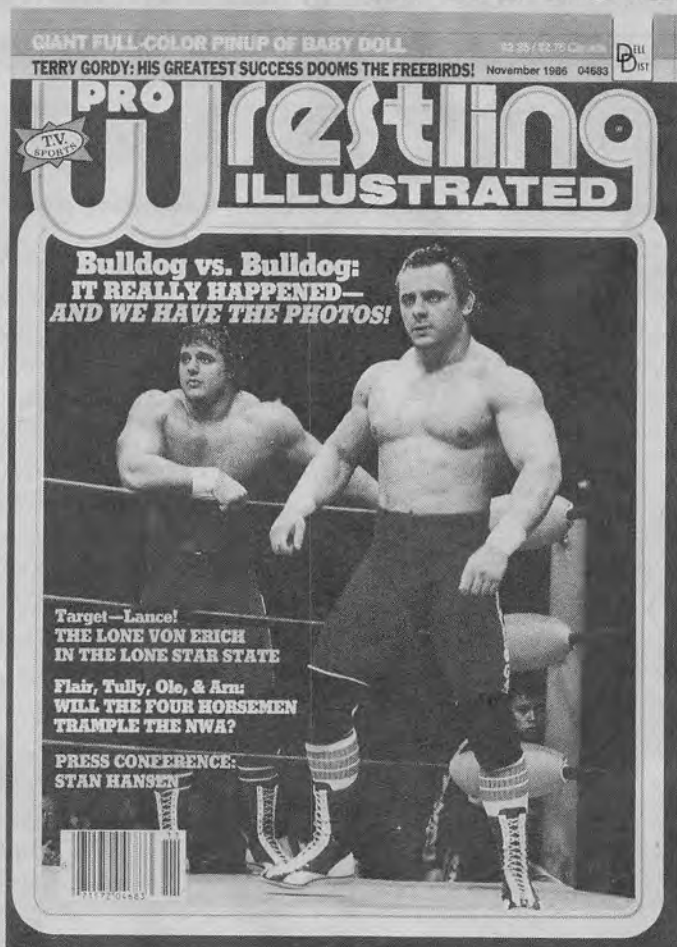
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INTERVIEW

TONY ATLAS

THE WORLD CLASS area has become known for its musclemen. There's Lance, Kevin, and Kerry Von Erich, The Dingo Warrior, and Steve Simpson. To that list add Tony Atlas, a veteran of the sport but a newcomer to the World Class area.

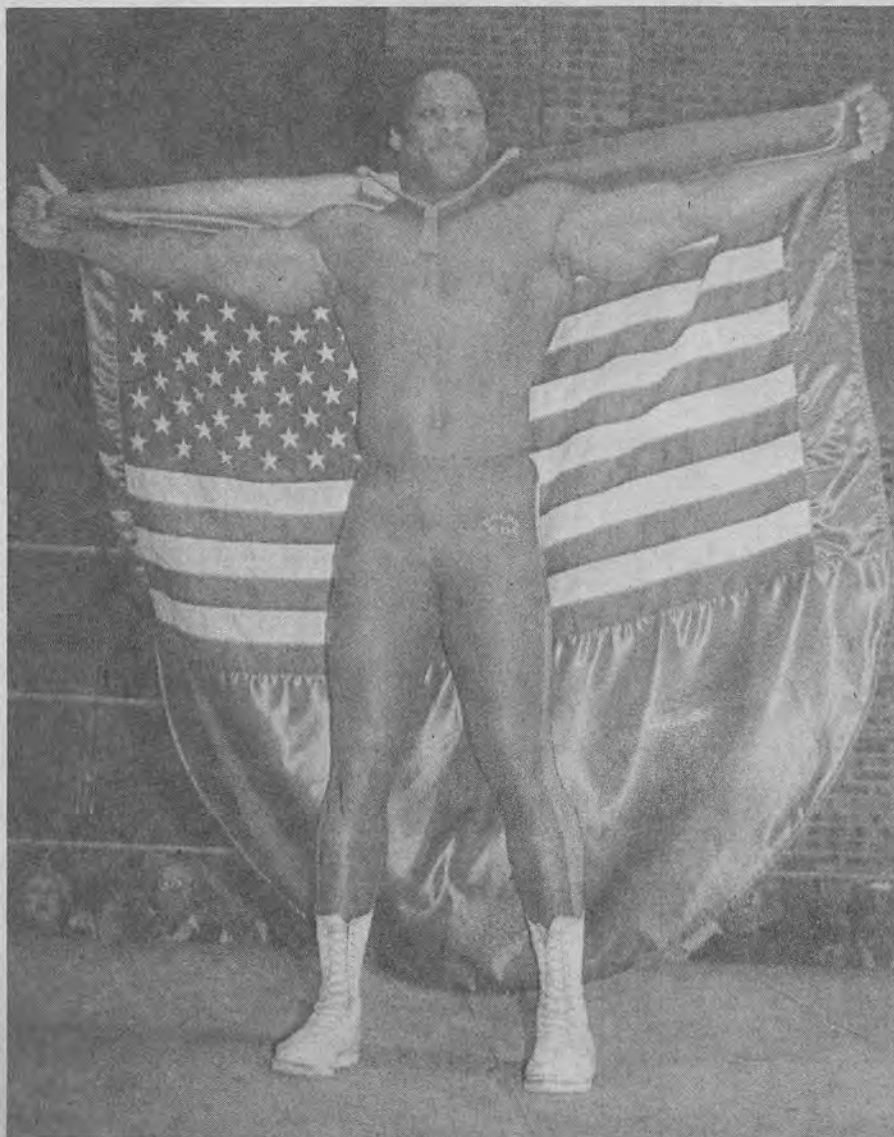
Fans in Texas will remember Atlas from his NWA and AWA days. The Tony Atlas of 1987 is not much different. Big, powerful, and well-defined, with a quiet but loving personality, Atlas is a favorite with the fans. His introduction to the World Class fans

did little to change that.

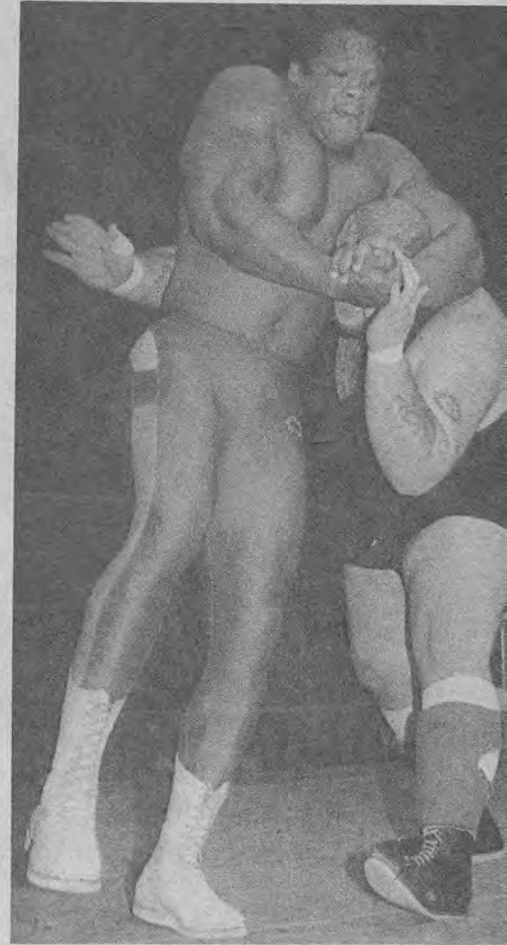
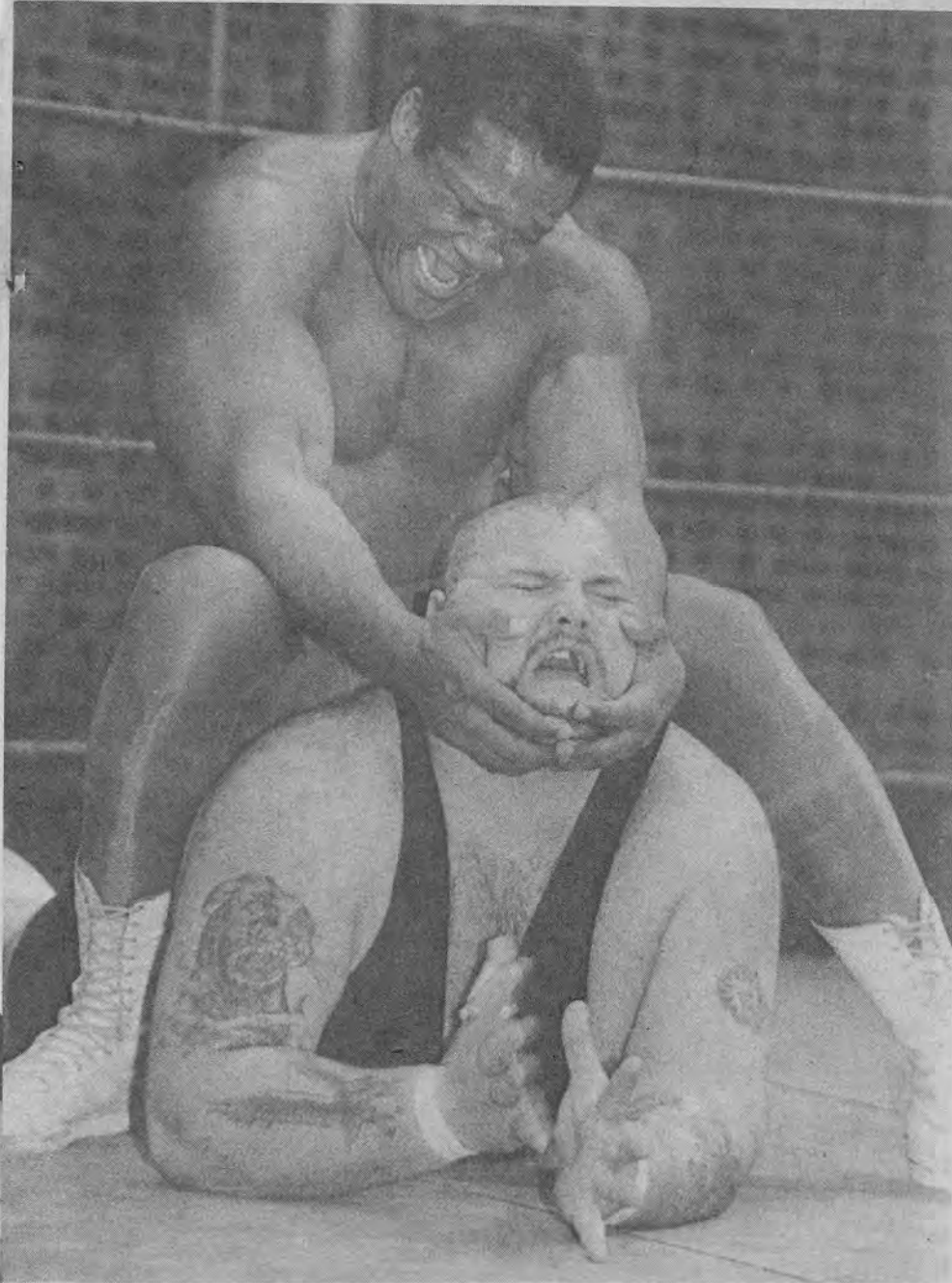
On Thanksgiving Day in Dallas' Reunion Arena, Atlas renewed his long feud with Abdullah the Butcher, a feud that has crisscrossed the NWA and the AWA. Atlas is well-acquainted with the Sudanese beast's tricks and was prepared when manager Gary Hart handed Abdullah a foreign object. Atlas grabbed the weapon from Abdullah and was immediately disqualified by referee Rick Hazzard. But Atlas didn't mind; the alternative was getting his head carved to pieces.

Four days later, in nearby Ft. Worth, Atlas faced a more serious challenge in the person of World Class TV champion Crusher Yurkof. Atlas had the powerful Yurkof in a sleeperhold near the ropes. As Crusher flailed his arms in an attempt to escape, he mistakenly struck referee Hazzard and momentarily knocked him out. Then manager Larry Sharpe climbed onto the ring apron and clotheslined Atlas. Yurkof covered Atlas and Hazzard got up just as Sharpe was making the three-count. Hazzard called for the bell and disqualified Yurkof for his manager's interference. World Class rules allow for a title change when the champion is disqualified and Atlas was given the belt.

The matches against Abdullah and Yurkof were typical of the competition Atlas will face in his new area. The veteran star has been around, but faces a unique challenge everywhere he goes. Atlas spoke with Senior Editor Bill Apter about these challenges and some of his still unmet career goals.



Shortly after entering the World Class area, Tony Atlas won the TV title from Crusher Yurkof, who feels the power of Atlas' chinpull (left) and facelock (below). Atlas is now known as "The Black Superman."



Q: Tony, you're incredible! All of these years in the sport and you're in better shape than ever. How do you do it?

A: Thanks, Bill. You have to remember, my man, that I'm a former Mr. U.S.A. and I have a certain responsibility to that title. It wouldn't look too good, now, if Mr. U.S.A. was walking around with a beer belly and flabby arms, would it?

Q: That's for certain, but how do you keep in such great shape?

A: Constant working out, Bill, and caring for my body. I don't eat nothing that's bad for me: no

soda, no salt, no meat, plenty of pasta and fish, and I don't eat no junk food. I get eight hours of sleep every night and work out at least three hours every day. That's all, Bill. You can do it, too.

Q: Well, I don't think so.

A: Actually, I don't either, Bill, but it's worth a try.

Q: Maybe we should go on to another subject. You know, Tony, it doesn't take much strength to push a button on a camera. Certainly not as much as it takes to wrestle Abdullah the Butcher and Crusher Yurkof. They threw you to the lions right away, didn't they?

A: Well, that's the way it's gotta be, Bill. I'm a veteran, remember that, and I've faced some pretty tough competition in my career. Guys like Nick Bockwinkel, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, all the world champions I've wrestled, so somebody like Yurkof or Abdullah really doesn't scare me at all. If I'm gonna make a name for myself in this area, it's gotta be against the best they have to offer.

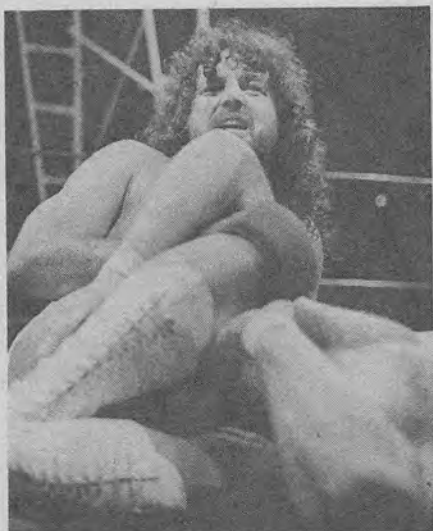
Q: Obviously you've succeeded, because you're already TV champion. What does that title mean to you?

A: Well, it's very important because the TV title is very visible and I beat a guy who has also made a name for himself pretty quickly. And remember, Steve Simpson and Buzz Sawyer held the belt before that, so it's pretty important. The thing I wanted to do was come in and win a belt as quickly as possi-

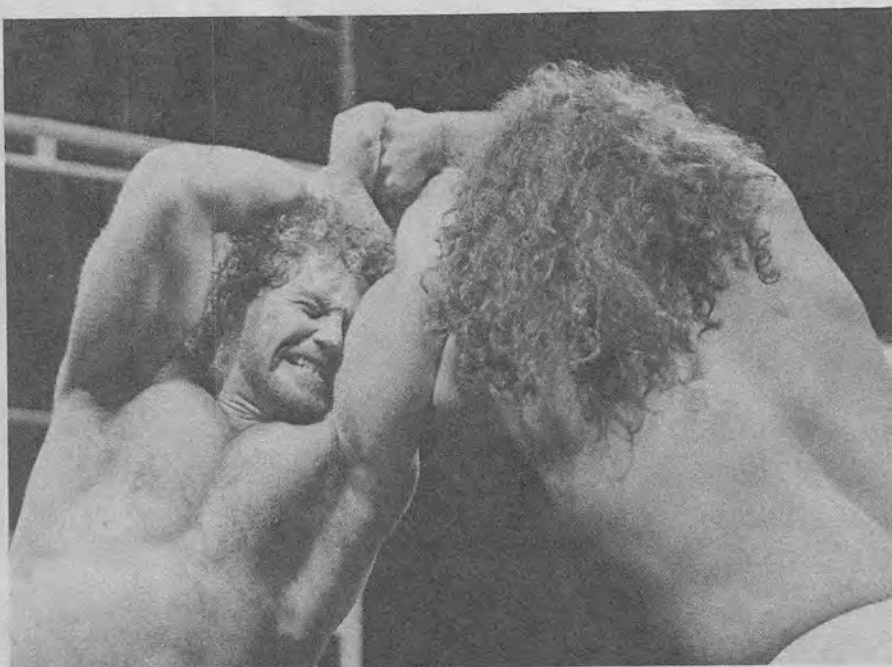
STARRCADE '86

ATLANTA

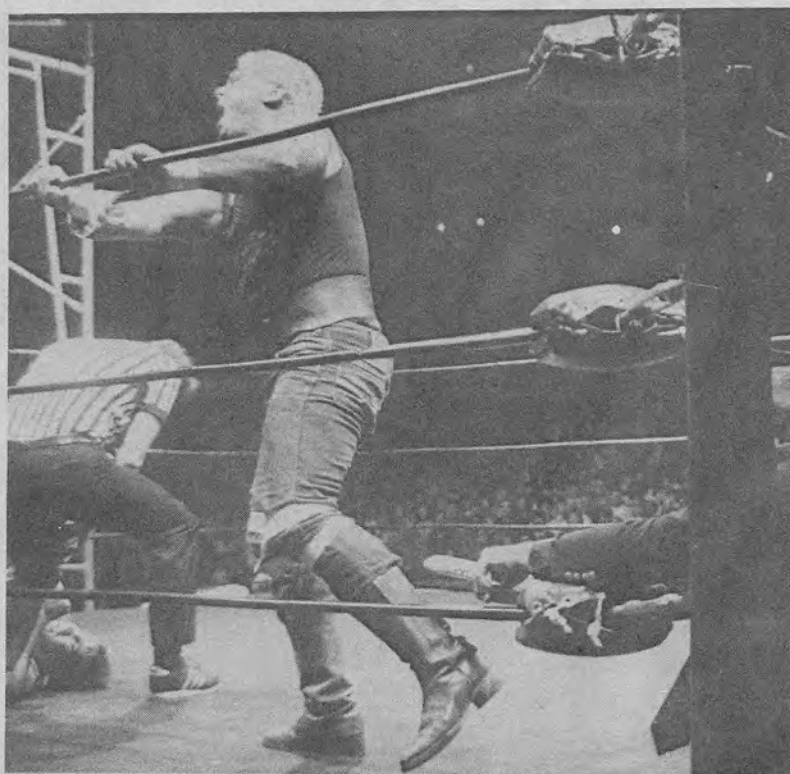
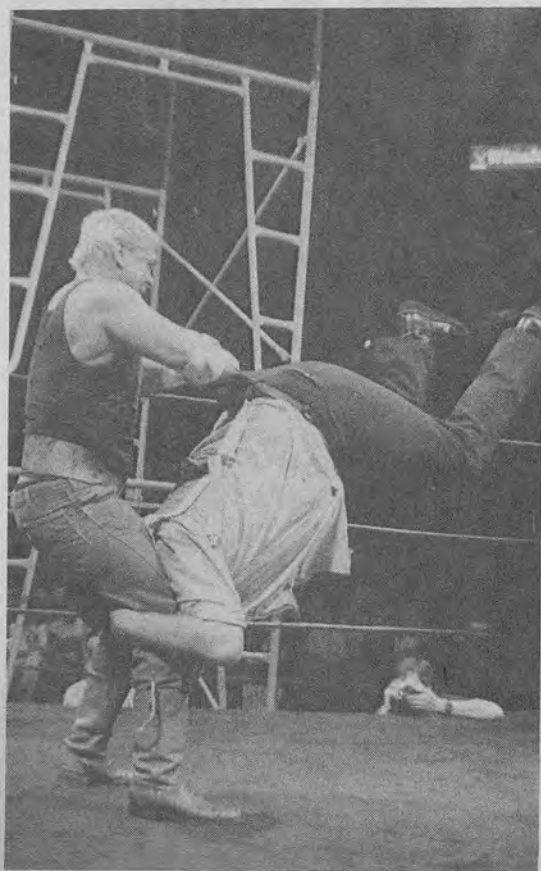
BRAD ARMSTRONG vs. JIM GARVIN



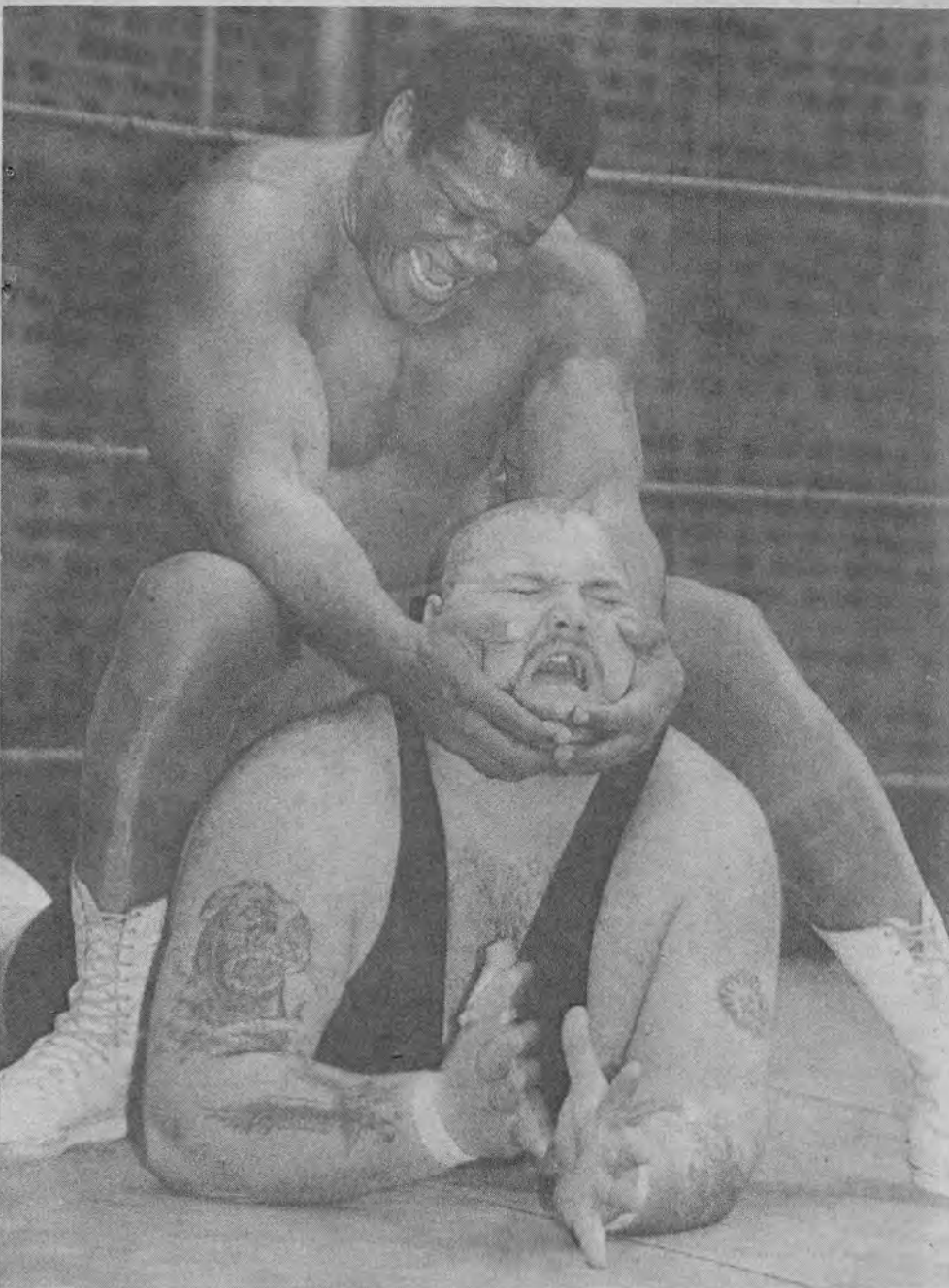
Jim Garvin controls Brad Armstrong in a headscissors (above), but Armstrong gets up and engages Garvin in a test of strength (right). The match was a time-limit draw.



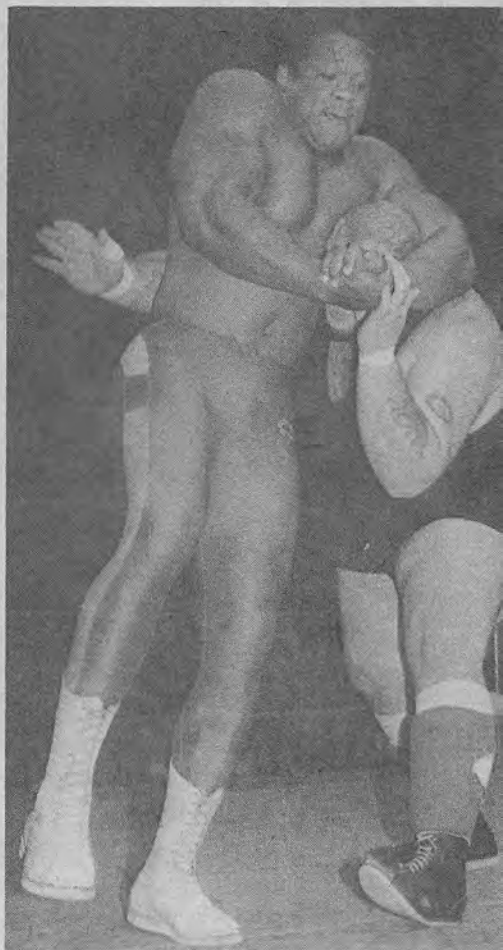
BUBBA ROGERS vs. RON GARVIN



Ron Garvin piledrives Bubba Rogers in their Louisville street fight (left). Jim Cornette cracks Garvin across the knee with his tennis racket (above), enabling his man to get to his feet first and be declared the winner.



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A: Actually, I don't either, Bill, but it's worth a try.

Q: Maybe we should go on to another subject. You know, Tony, it doesn't take much strength to push a button on a camera. Certainly not as much as it takes to wrestle Abdullah the Butcher and Crusher Yurkof. They threw you to the lions right away, didn't they?

A: Well, that's the way it's gotta be, Bill. I'm a veteran, remember that, and I've faced some pretty tough competition in my career. Guys like Nick Bockwinkel, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, all the world champions I've wrestled, so somebody like Yurkof or Abdullah really doesn't scare me at all. If I'm gonna make a name for myself in this area, it's gotta be against the best they have to offer.

Q: Obviously you've succeeded, because you're already TV champion. What does that title mean to you?

A: Well, it's very important because the TV title is very visible and I beat a guy who has also made a name for himself pretty quickly. And remember, Steve Simpson and Buzz Sawyer held the belt before that, so it's pretty important. The thing I wanted to do was come in and win a belt as quickly as possi-



ble. I've done that, so now I'm ready for bigger things.

Q: Like the World Class heavyweight title?

A: That's right. I've told you before that I wouldn't object to a scientific match and I think the fans down here would welcome a match between me and Kevin Von Erich. He's a great scientific wrestler and the two of us could really show the fans a thing or two.

Q: To tell you the truth, Tony, I think the Von Erichs are shying away from these scientific matches after what happened between Mike and Adias.

A: Well, maybe so, but I'm not Brian Adias. I've proven myself to be an honorable man, although I'll do what it takes to win. Remember, also, that I like the Von Erichs, but I'm not exactly friends with any of them, so they wouldn't have to worry about me stabbing them in the back. I'd just like to wrestle for the titles, and I don't care who holds them.

Q: What was the key in your match against Yurkof?

Atlas turns the tables on Abdullah the Butcher by hitting him with a foreign object (above). Their longstanding feud has resumed. Yurkof's manager, Larry Sharpe, interferes in the TV title match (below). World Class rules stipulate that the belt can change hands by disqualification.



A: The key was that I had Yurkof beaten and a simple fluke almost cost me the match. I'm not saying that Yurkof purposely knocked out the ref, because I don't think he did, but it happened at just the right time for him to get back into the match. If he doesn't knock out the ref, I win by either submission

or pin, which is how I would have liked to win.

Q: It bothered you that you won by DQ?

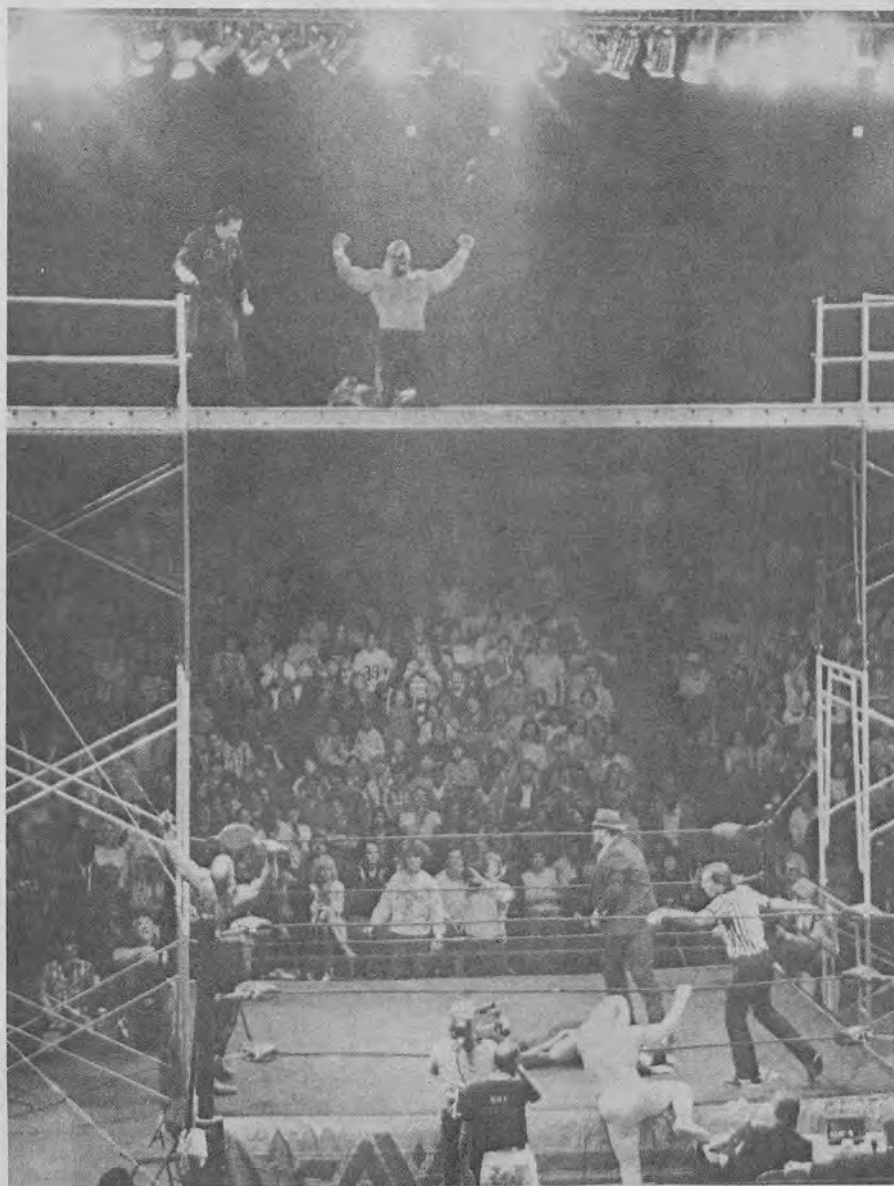
A: Not as much as it would have, because I deserved to win, but it did. The World Class area is the only place where titles change hands on
(Continued on page 50)

Exclusive Coverage:

STARRCADE '86

THE BEST YET!

It was an incredible card of wrestling—perhaps the best Starrcade event ever! Greensboro and Atlanta were the host cities for Starrcade '86, and *Sports Review Wrestling* is proud to bring you all 12 matches worth of action and excitement from this historic extravaganza!



THANKSGIVING IS A wonderful holiday. It's a family holiday. A time when parents and children and brothers and sisters convene over a turkey dinner to discuss life and love, joke with each other, and eat just a little bit too much.

And after dinner, after dessert, after the cake and the pie and the ice cream and the coffee, there's that most enduring of Thanksgiving traditions: football.

But for over 50,000 fans across the country, that enduring tradition of flopping on the couch and yelling at the television set's endless procession of huddles, shotgun formations, and passing plays is being replaced with a different kind of sporting event: Starrcade.

Starrcade '86 was held in two cities: Atlanta and Greensboro, North Carolina. In addition to the two live venues (Atlanta's Omni and The Greensboro Coliseum drew attendance figures of 13,190 and 15,700, respectively), fans packed into closed circuit locations in Charlotte, North Carolina (2,213), Kansas City, Missouri (2,750), Norfolk, Virginia (4,500), Charleston, West Virginia (3,200), Cincinnati (2,700), Albany, Georgia (2,700), Jacksonville, Florida (2,950), and Columbia, South Carolina (3,500).

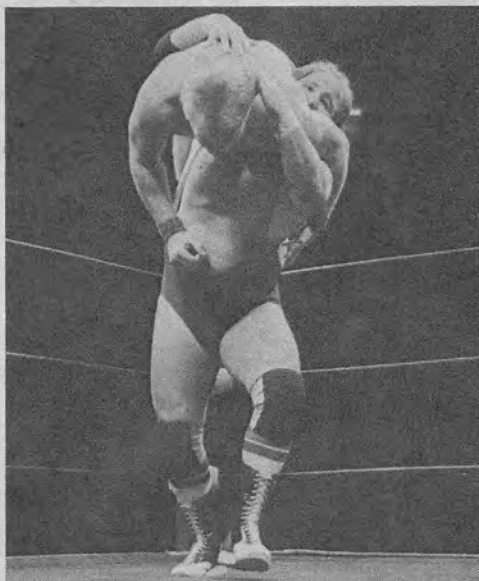
(Continued on page 58)

*Greensboro photos by Eddie Cheslock and Floyd See
Atlanta photos by Bill Apter and Len McAlister*

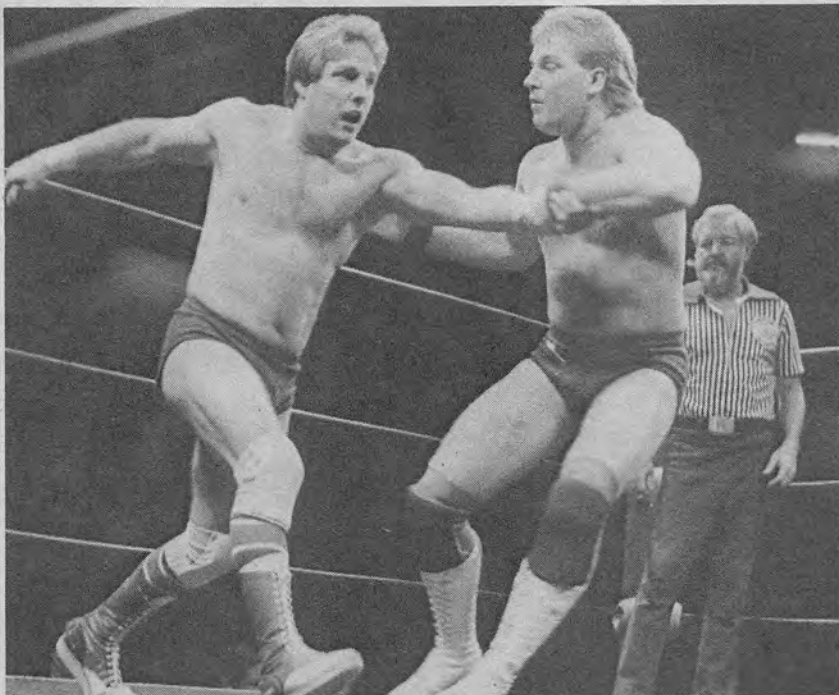
STARRCADE '86

GREENSBORO

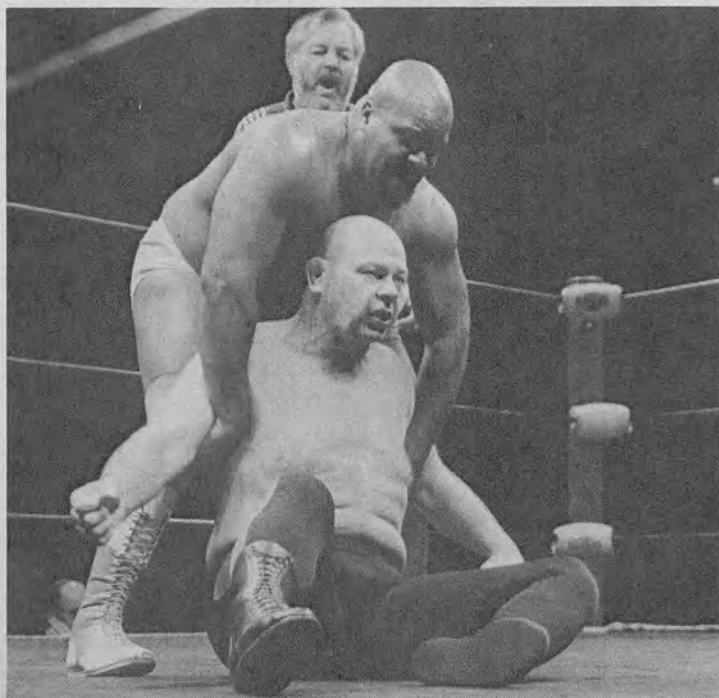
TIM HORNER & NELSON ROYAL vs. DON & ROCKY KERNODLE



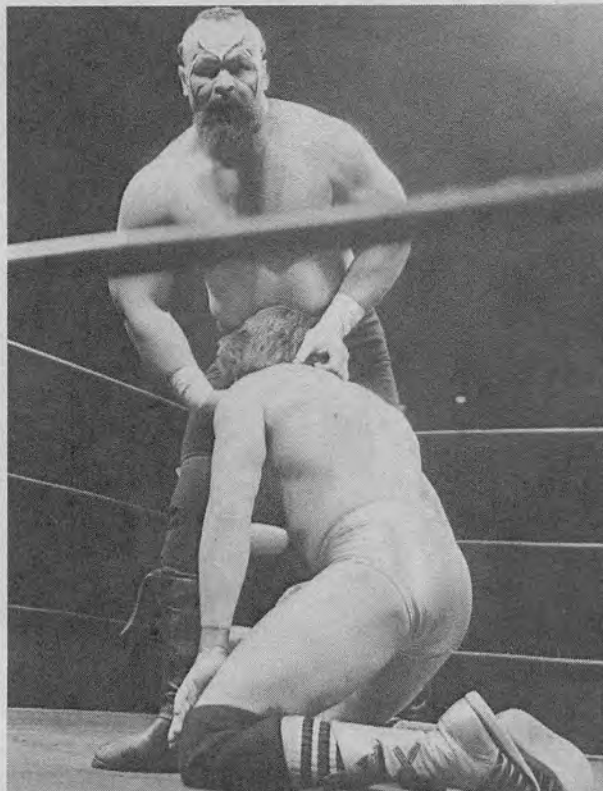
In Starrcade's opening match, Don Kernodle slams Tim Horner (above). Kernodle's younger brother, Rocky, is whipped into the ropes by Horner (right).



SHASKA WHATLEY & KONGA THE BARBARIAN
vs. BARON VON RASCHKE & HECTOR GUERRERO



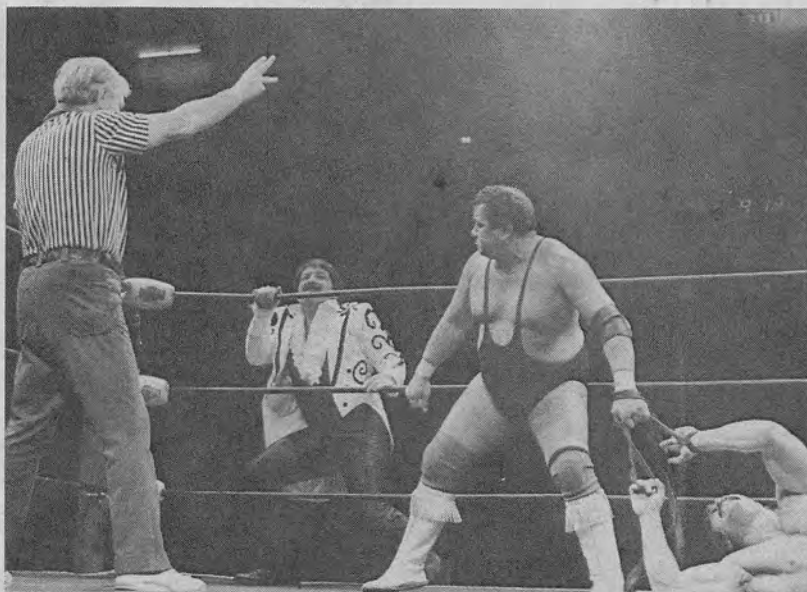
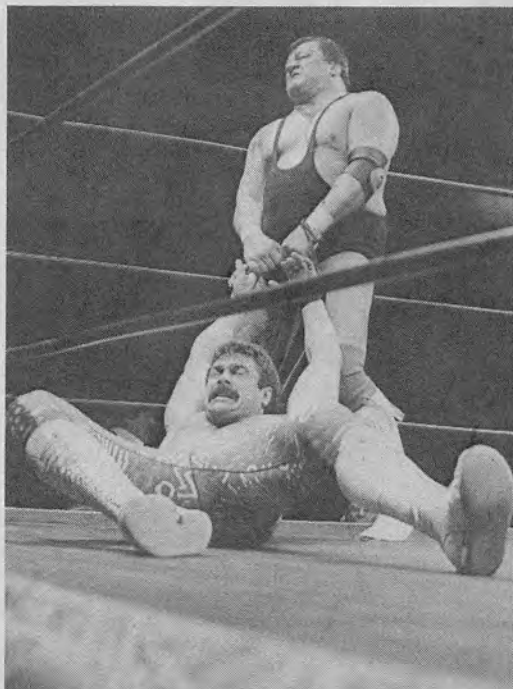
Shaska Whatley knocks a groggy Baron Von Raschke to the mat and keeps him there (above), while Konga The Barbarian is firmly in control over Hector Guerrero (right). Von Raschke and Guerrero had to come back from behind to win.



STARRCADE '86

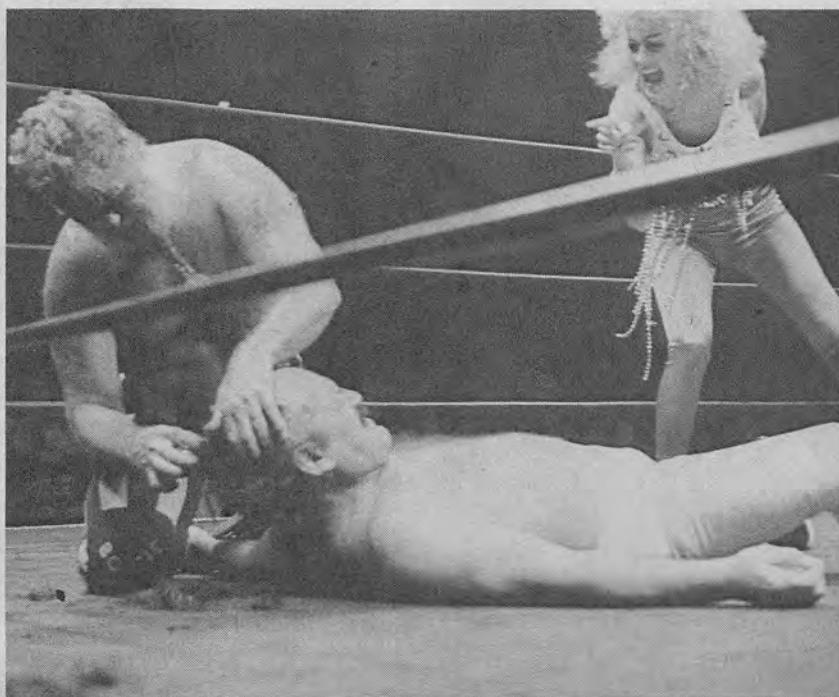
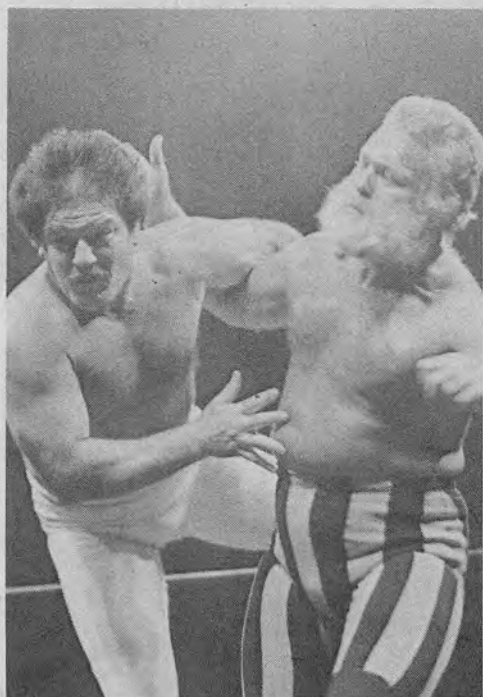
GREENSBORO

WAHOO McDANIEL vs. RICK RUDE



Wahoo McDaniel drags Rick Rude to another ringpost in their Indian strap match (left). Rude's manager, Paul Jones, tries to interfere, but he's afraid McDaniel might chop him to the ground (above). The popular Indian still has never lost an Indian strap match.

JIM VALIANT vs. PAUL JONES

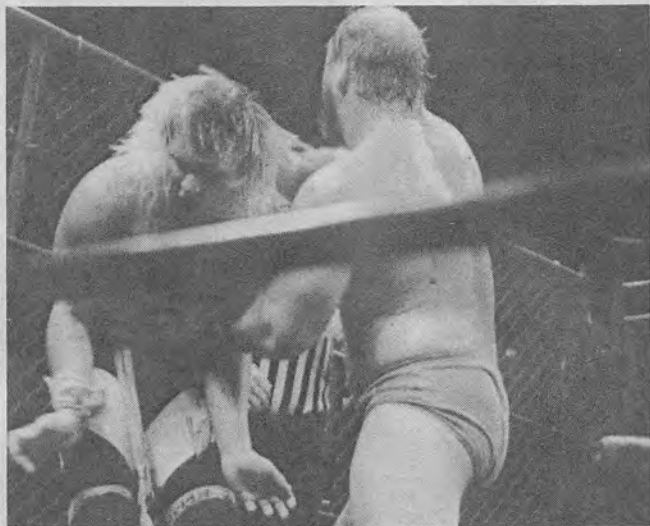
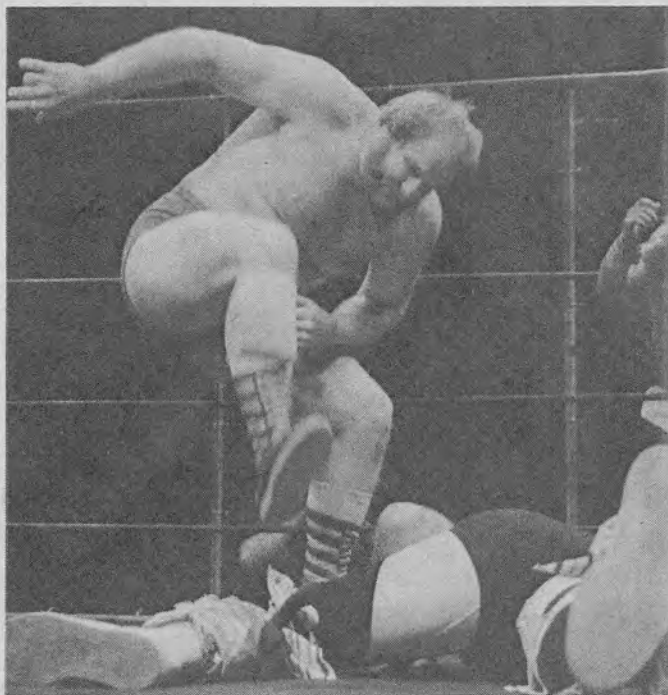


It was Paul Jones' hair against the hair of Jimmy Valiant's woman, Big Mamma, in this bout. Valiant snapmares Jones (left) and goes on to take a relatively easy victory. After the win, "The Boogie Woogie Man" gets the privilege of shaving Jones' head bald as Big Mamma taunts the rulebreaking manager (right).

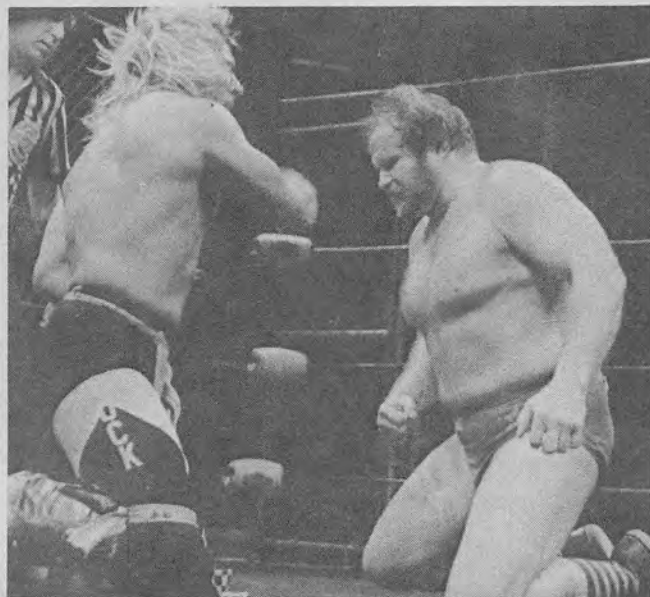
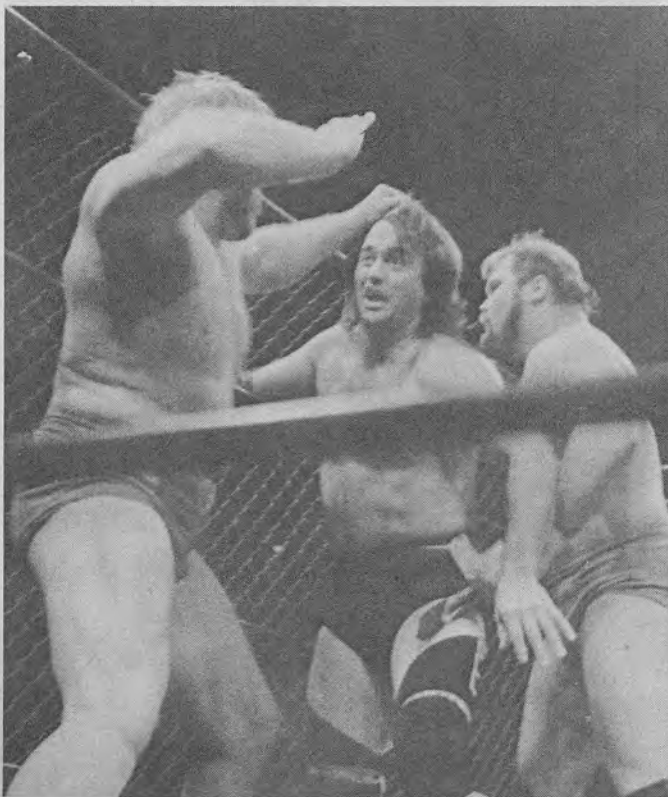
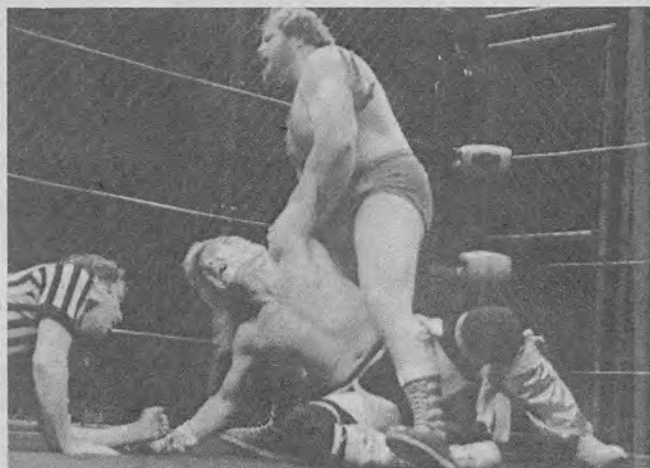
STARRCADE '86

GREENSBORO

THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS vs. THE ANDERSONS



Clockwise from top: Ole Anderson stomps Robert Gibson, Arn Anderson throws Rick Morton against the cage, Ole catches Morton in an armbar, Morton comes back with a hard right hand, and Ole slaps Gibson in the face. Despite taking a beating from the Andersons, The Rock 'n' Roll Express successfully defended the NWA World tag team title.

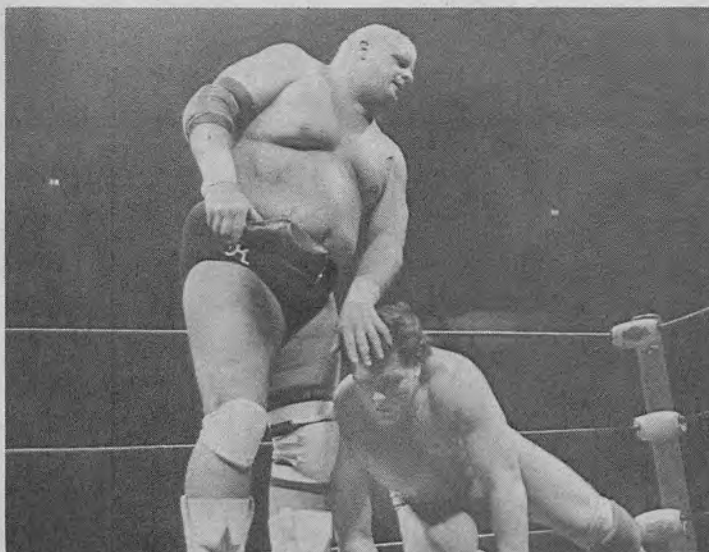
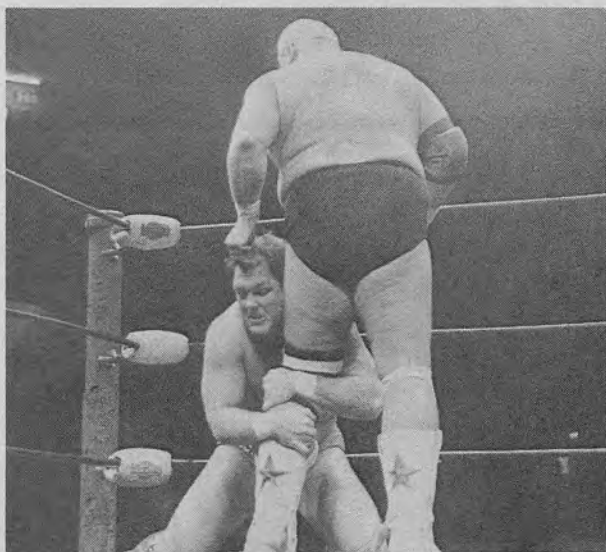
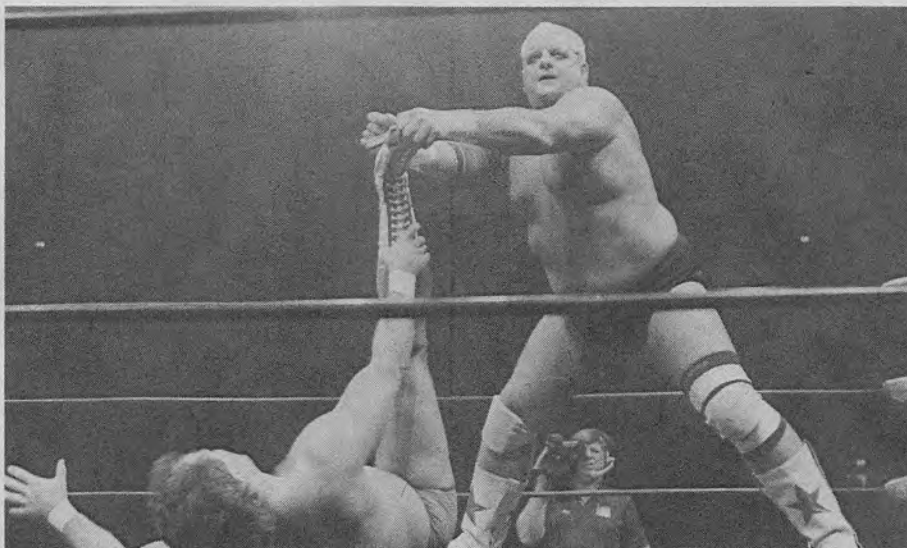


STARRCADE '86

GREENSBORO

TULLY BLANCHARD vs. DUSTY RHODES

Dusty Rhodes applies a spinning toehold on Tully Blanchard during their "first blood" match for Dusty's NWA TV title (right). In an effort to fight back, Blanchard grabs onto Dusty's leg (below left), but Dusty pounds on Blanchard with a shoe (below right).



Blanchard has the cuts on his head closed by J.J. Dillon (above). With the referee knocked out, Blanchard took a roll of quarters and busted Dusty's head open (right). The referee saw Dusty's cut and awarded the match and the title to Blanchard.



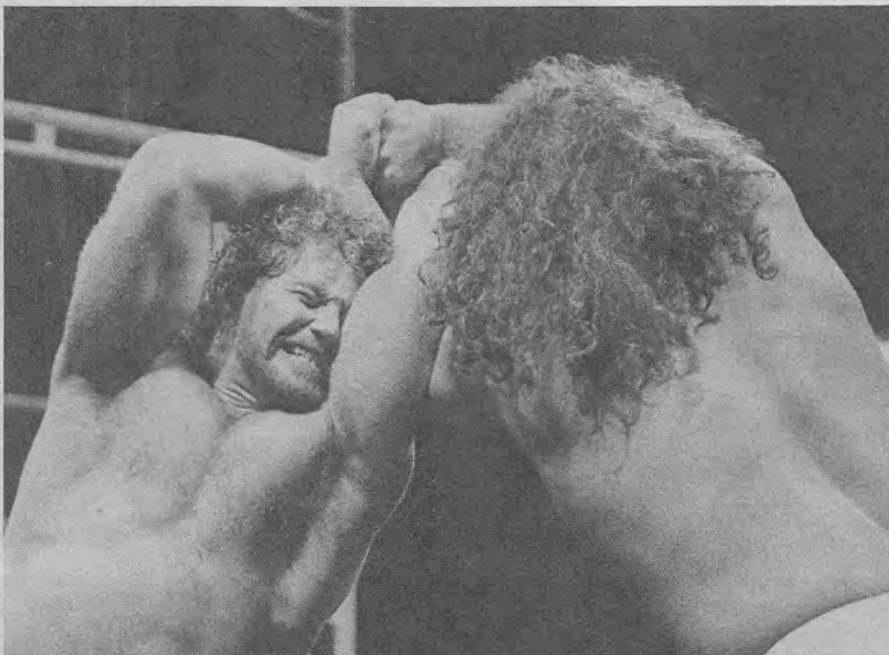
STARRCADE '86

ATLANTA

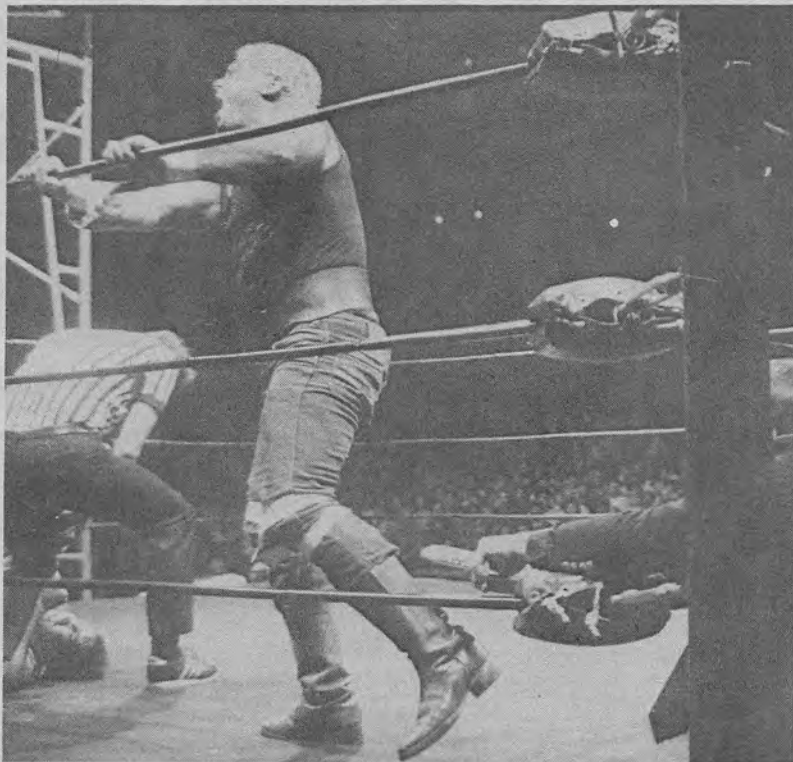
BRAD ARMSTRONG vs. JIM GARVIN



Jim Garvin controls Brad Armstrong in a headscissors (above), but Armstrong gets up and engages Garvin in a test of strength (right). The match was a time-limit draw.



BUBBA ROGERS vs. RON GARVIN



Ron Garvin piledrives Bubba Rogers in their Louisville street fight (left). Jim Cornette cracks Garvin across the knee with his tennis racket (above), enabling his man to get to his feet first and be declared the winner.

STARRCADE '86

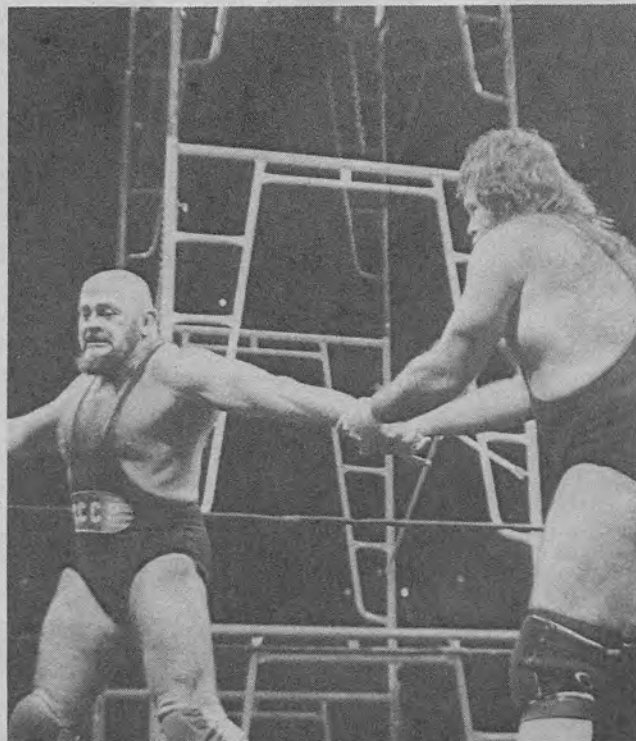
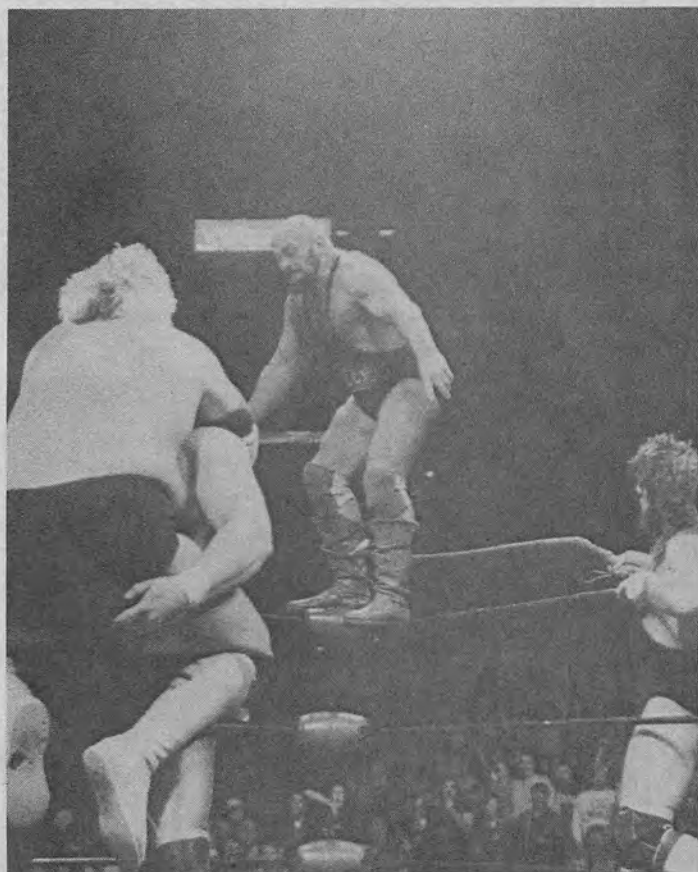
ATLANTA

SAM HOUSTON vs. BILL DUNDEE



In a match for the Central States title, champion Sam Houston flips Bill Dundee back into the ring (left). When Dundee hit Houston with his boot (above), he was disqualified.

IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV vs. THE KANSAS JAYHAWKS

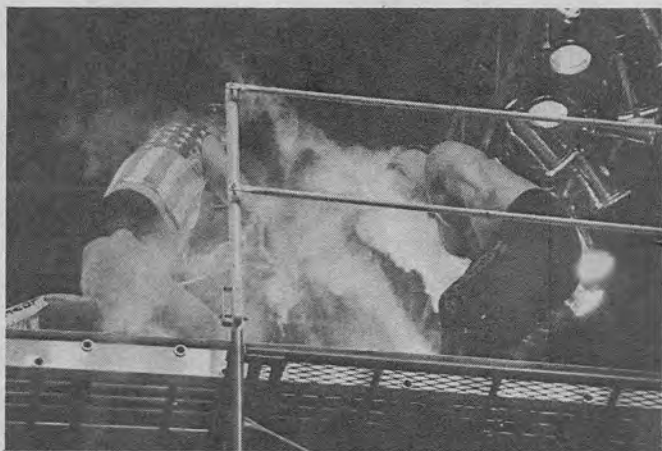


Before Ivan Koloff has the chance to clothesline Bobby Jagers from off the top rope, Dutch Mantel pulls him down with the bullrope (left). Mantel prevents Koloff from making the tag (above), but the Russians won and retained the U.S. tag team belts.

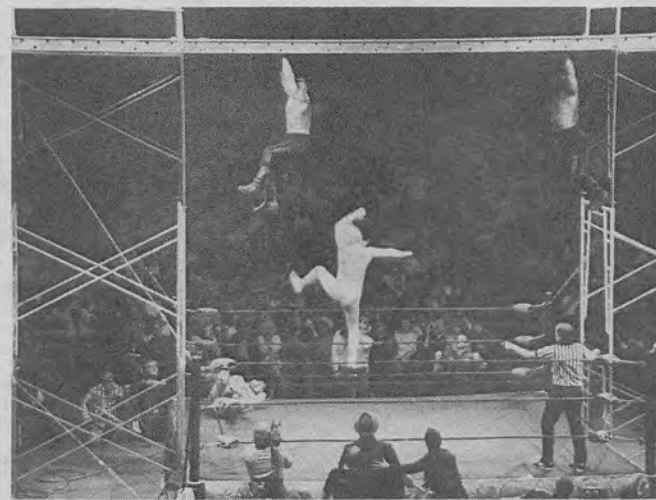
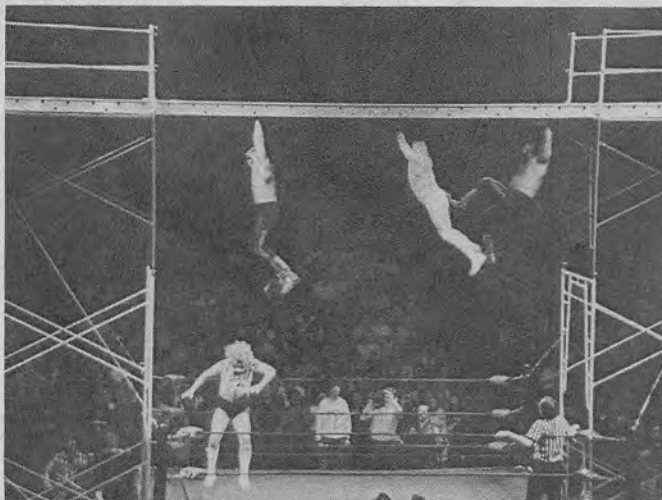
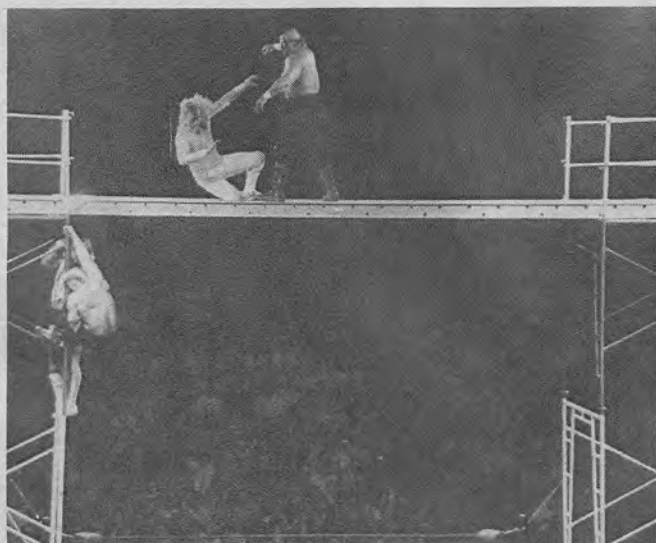
STARRCADE '86

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THE ROAD WARRIORS vs. THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS



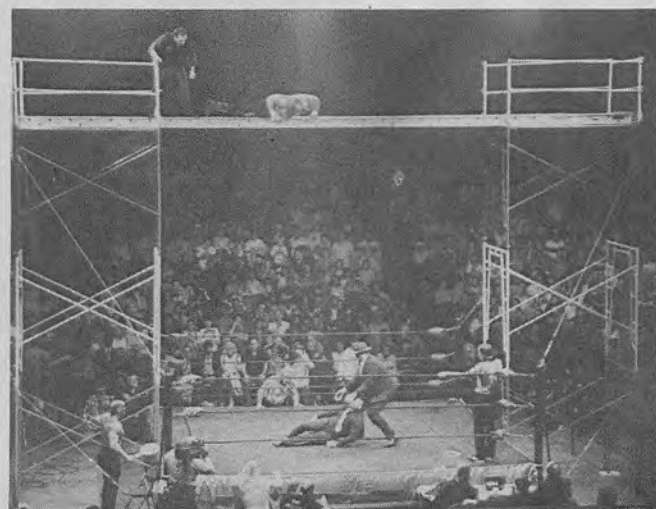
At the start of the scaffold match between The Road Warriors and The Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey throws powder in Animal and Hawk's eyes (above). As Hawk and Condrey struggle, Animal tries to knock Bobby Eaton off the scaffold (right).



The Road Warriors won the match when Hawk kicked Condrey 20 feet to the mat (left) and Animal did the same to Eaton (right). Hawk showed a lot of guts by participating in this type of match with a broken leg.



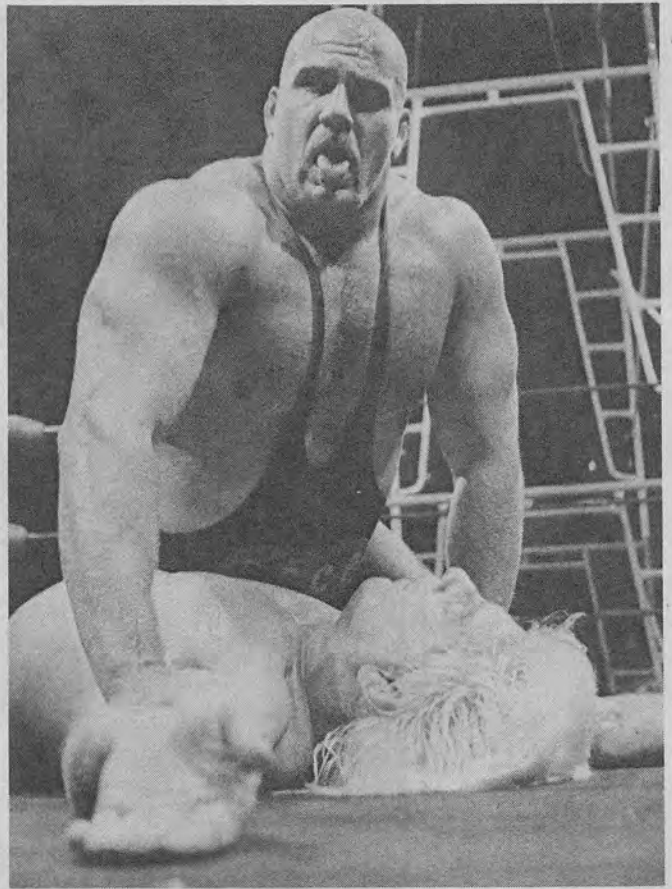
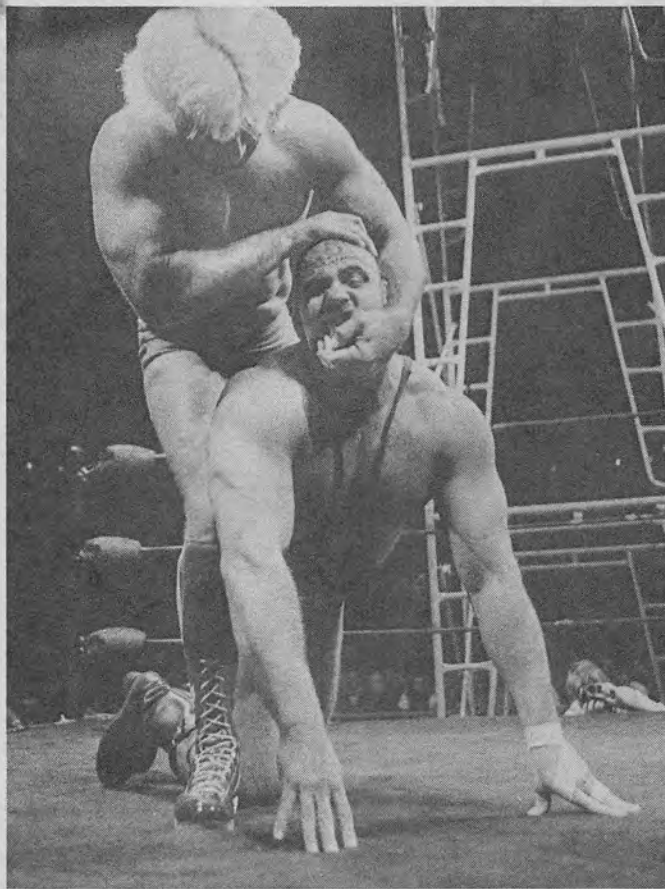
Jim Cornette is trapped between Animal and Paul Ellering (above), and is aided by his bodyguard Bubba after falling off (right). Cornette would later require leg surgery.



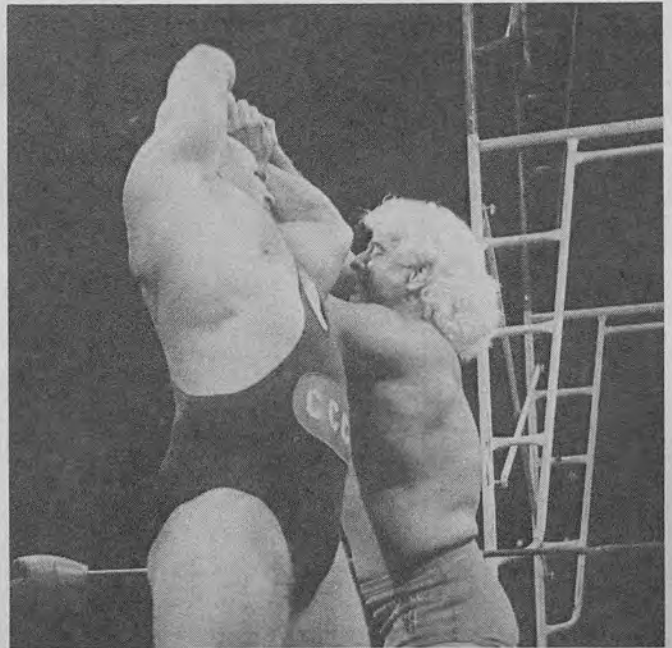
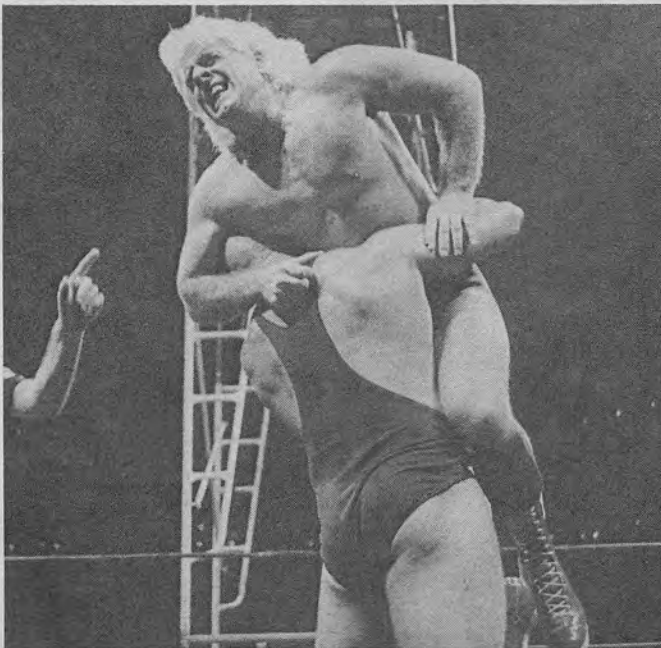
STARRCADE '86

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NIKITA KOLOFF vs. RIC FLAIR

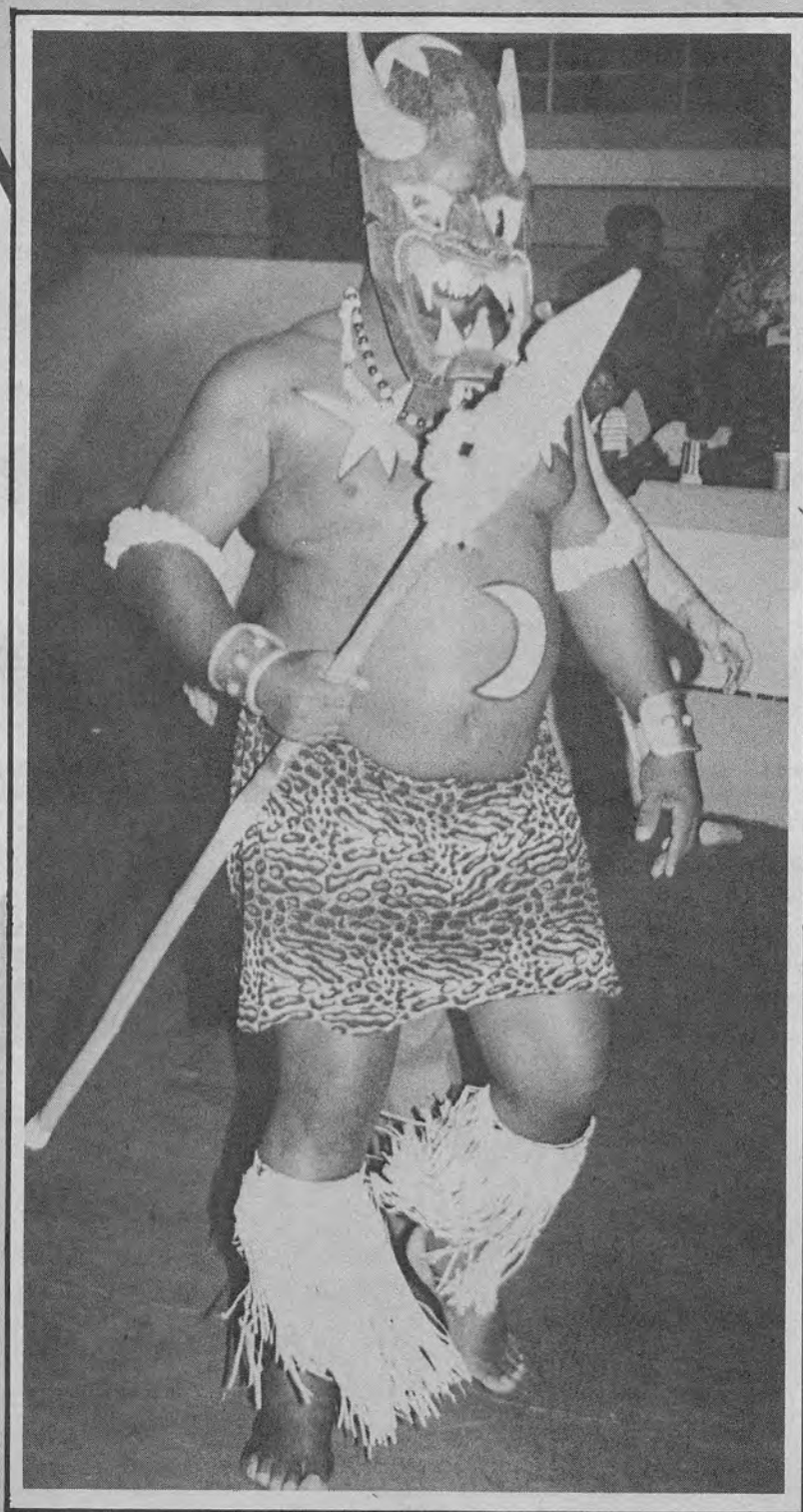


The unforgettable event closed with Ric Flair defending the NWA World title against Nikita Koloff. Flair twists Koloff's head (above left). Koloff goes for the cover (above right) and catches Flair in a bearhug (below left). They lock up in a test of power (below right). Both men were disqualified for pushing the referees.



Who Gave Kamala This Gruesome Order?

"BRING ME THE HEAD OF HULK HOGAN!"





Kamala, the Ugandan Headhunter, has one mission in the WWF: destroy Hulk Hogan. Kamala is warned for choking his opponent against the turnbuckle.

PRIMAL HUNGER BURNS in the widening eyes of Kamala. As the Ugandan giant's beefy hands tighten their grip around the throat of Hulk Hogan, the WWF heavyweight champion attempts to scream; all that emerges from Hogan's mouth is a staccato, guttural rat-a-tat that indicates his air passage is being pinched shut.

The tiny red veins in Kamala's eyes seem to take on an incandescent glow. A cannibalistic grimace that might be mistaken for a smile reveals few teeth, mostly gums; a glob of spittle inches down his chin.

Three or four throaty coughs are

followed by a brief but violent series of spasmodic twitches. Hogan falls limp in the Ugandan's hands. The final cough from The Hulkster sends a fine spray of blood through the air, spattering Kamala's face with tiny crimson polka dots. Kamala's thick tongue laps the blood off his own lips. It seems impossible, but Kamala's eyes appear to widen even further.

The complete and utter horror of the next few minutes causes unspeakable and indescribable actions to blur together into an amorphous image of abject revulsion and terror. And fear. And blood. Pain. A



The force a 360-pound man could generate by jumping off the top rope is enormous. Kamala executes the maneuver against George Steele, but he would prefer to do so against Hulk Hogan.

glint of steel. Screams. Grunts. Sounds that could only have been created in hell. Or a cannibal's jungle.

And the final image, more horrible than any other: Hulk Hogan's bloody head tottering precariously atop the jungle spear of Kamala.

The Ugandan Headhunter has fulfilled his mission.

Images of a nightmare. Perhaps the nightmare of an impressionable child too young to filter the stark and sometimes confusing sights of WWF wrestling though his still-developing brain. Perhaps the nightmare of many wrestling fans anticipating the impending series of WWF championship bouts involving Kamala.

Certainly Hulk Hogan's nightmare.

The Hulk Hogan-Kamala war is sure to go down in history as being distinguished by uncommon levels of sadism, brutality, and viciousness. Wrestling skills don't count here. It's survival of the fittest. If Charles Darwin were alive, the WWF's front office celebrity-hunters might enlist him as special referee—that is if he wasn't completely astounded by the very fact of the Ugandan giant's existence.

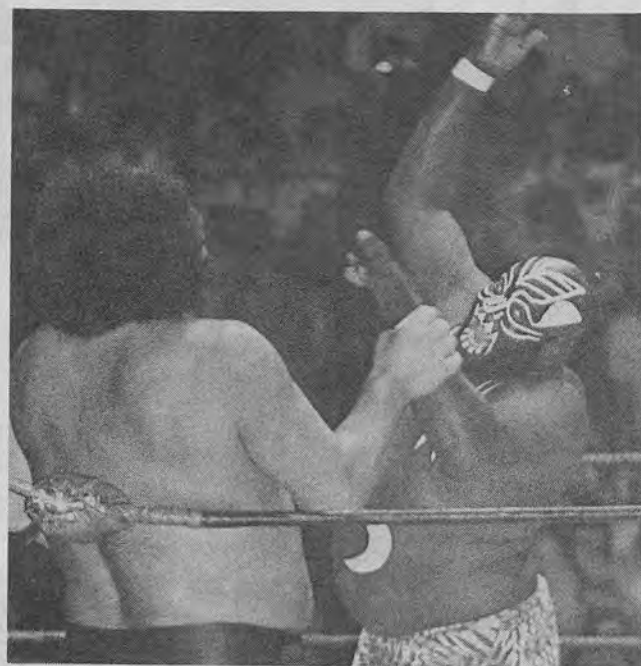
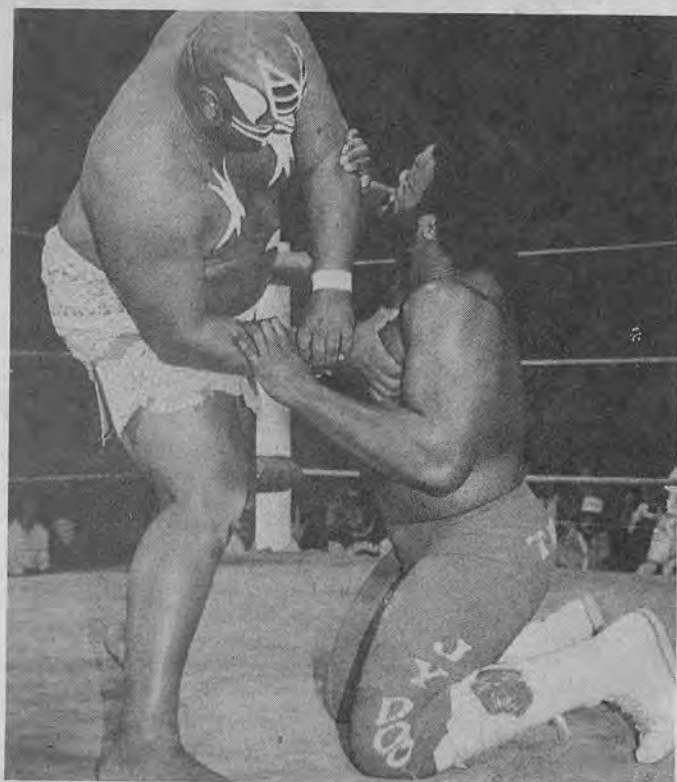
Indeed, Kamala's existence is a riddle. He is a pure savage, a throwback to a time when jungle instincts ruled the world. Even Kim Chee and Wizard King Curtis, Kamala's handler and manager, respectively, seem to have a great deal of trouble controlling the man/beast.

But someone, somewhere, somehow *does* possess a modicum of control over Kamala.

For how else would a 380-pound savage from the jungles of Uganda, a behemoth with no wrestling skills, secure a match against the WWF World heavyweight champion?

"There's a determination about Kamala, a sense of purpose, that's unbelievable. I've never seen it in him before. And it scares me."

These are the words of one



Kamala forces Junkyard Dog to the mat (left), chops Andre the Giant (above), and controls Billy Jack Haynes (below). Although he has fewer scientific skills than these top wrestlers, Kamala may have the best chance of taking the title from Hogan.

WWF wrestler who demanded to speak off the record for fear of reprisal from the Ugandan giant and his manager and handler.

"The word around the dressing rooms is that somebody's paid The Wizard a hell of a lot of money to send Kamala up against Hogan. And they want Kamala to go for it. To be let loose. Bring Hogan's head on a platter or a spear, if he has to. Anything—just get rid of Hogan. It could get pretty ugly. Nobody knows who it is, but there are plenty of rumors."

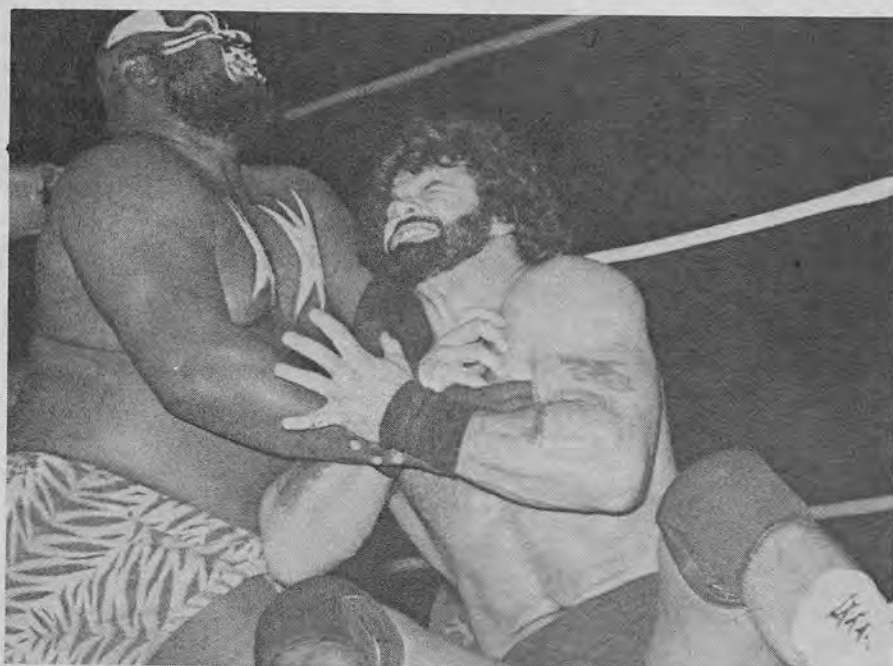
And plenty of possibilities.

Perhaps it's Paul Orndorff, still stinging from multiple defeats at the hands of Hogan in a series of cage matches.

Perhaps it's Roddy Piper, who sees Hogan as the only man standing between him and the fame and fortune of being the sport's most popular wrestler, and obviously won't risk his standing by going after the champion himself.

Perhaps it's Bobby Heenan, who harbors a deep hatred for Hogan, hatred that stretches back to the early '80s when both Hogan and Heenan were rivals in the AWA.

Indeed, it could be anyone.



When you're Hulk Hogan—an individual who has transcended the sport of wrestling to become a national celebrity and an industry in and of himself—people are after more than just your title. They want your fame, your money, and your fans. Your glory. Your blood.

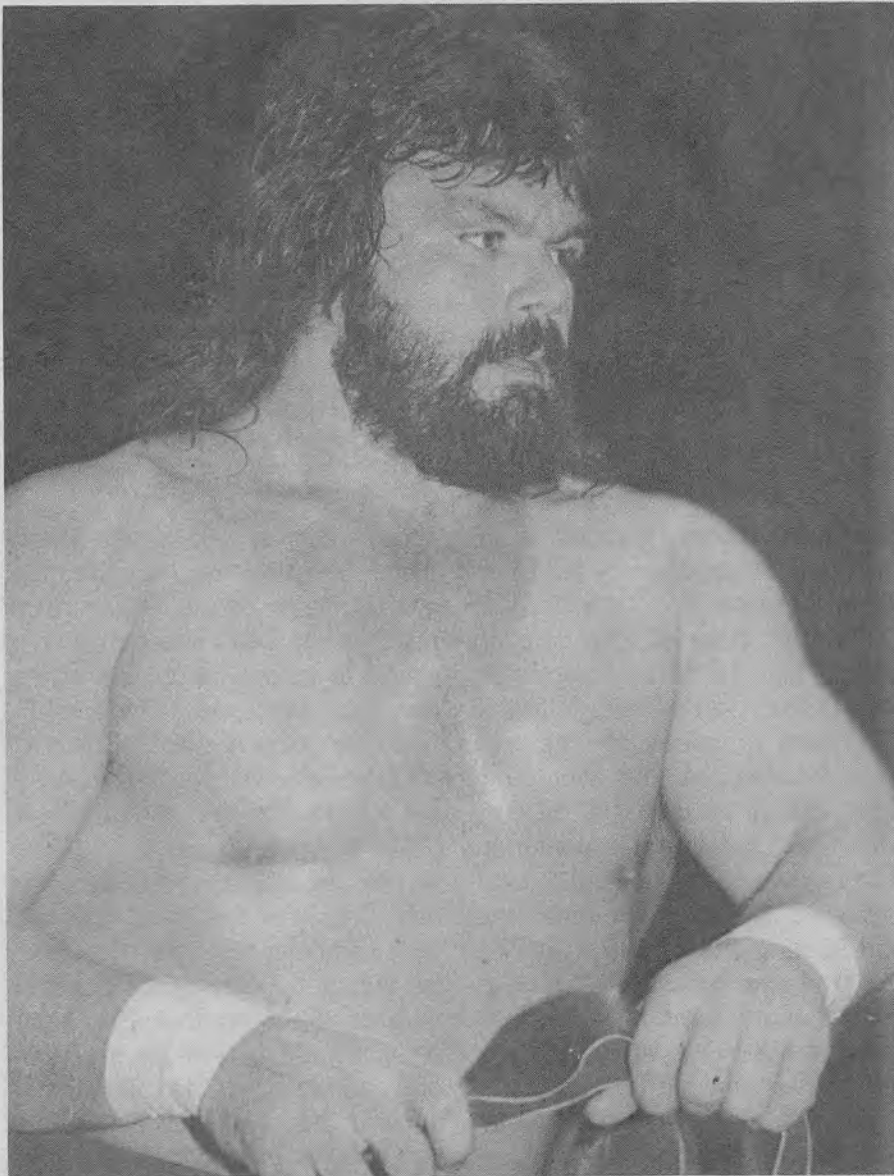
Kamala, the one wrestler in the WWF with the least amount of wrestling skills, may be the one wrestler in the WWF with the greatest chance of injuring Hogan.

For good.

Primal hunger burns in the widening eyes of Kamala. Grunting and drooling, the Ugandan savage takes a step toward his foe. Tens of thousands of fans' eyes burn with the horror of sights they have never before seen. Kim Chee mutters instructions from ringside; Wizard King Curtis does the same. Hulk Hogan looks across the ring at a living nightmare.

The war has begun. □

STEVE WILLIAMS CLOSES IN ON THE UWF TITLE



STEVE WILLIAMS HAS been forced to learn patience, but that patience is wearing thin.

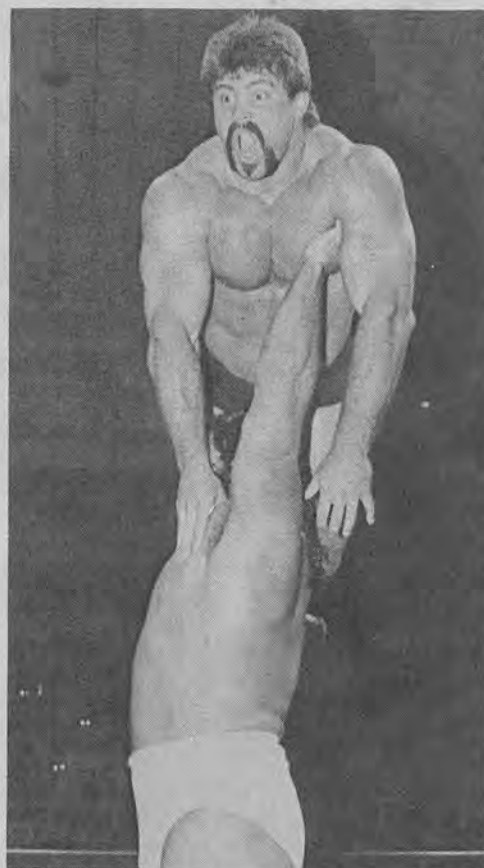
Coming off his Most Improved Wrestler of the Year selection in 1985, he had set 1986 as the year he would rule the UWF. But the majority of the year was dominated by Jim Duggan and Terry Gordy, and Williams, while not exactly keeping a low profile, never surfaced to make a serious run at the title.

But now the belt is in the shaky hands of One Man Gang, and Dr. Death knows that his goal is within reach. The highest honor in the UWF might soon be his. And for the former Oklahoma football star, the Sooner the better.

"This is what we all strive for, this is it," says Williams, whose gruff appearance belies his personable character. "I can smell blood, baby, and that's the blood of One Man Gang. How much longer can that overweight bum hang on to the belt?"

Ever since November 9 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that question has been on the mind of all UWF observers. One Man Gang is considered one of the worst technical wrestlers in the sport, but he has two things

The opportunity is there and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is ready to take advantage of it. One Man Gang has the UWF title, but that can't last for long. Williams is at the top of his game and closing in fast!



Blood gushes from Terry Gordy's eye as Steve Williams squeezes on a facelock (left). Rick Steiner, an up-and-coming competitor in the UWF, is pressed overhead by Dr. Death (above) and slammed down (opposite page left). Williams is convinced he can beat One Man Gang for the UWF championship.

going for him: 468 pounds and a killer instinct nurtured while growing up on the streets of Chicago.

Still, there are too many negatives for him to last: his lack of scientific skills, immobility in the ring, inability to wrestle at full strength for longer than five minutes, the misguidance of Skandor Akbar (one of the most self-serving managers in wrestling), and the fact that Gang is hated by fan favorites and rulebreakers alike.

The final factor is directly related to the manner in which he won the belt. Gordy was scheduled to wrestle twice on one card and was injured before his title defense against One Man Gang. Despite Michael Hayes' request on his partner's behalf, UWF officials would not allow Gordy to postpone the title defense, opting to award the belt to OMG by default. This drew the ire of The Free-

birds. Of course, Gang was already the target of every fan favorite in the area.

With all these factors working against him, OMG is expected to lose the title. And Steve Williams is primed to speed up the process. Williams has the eye of the tiger, and as he closes in on One Man Gang he only gets hungrier.

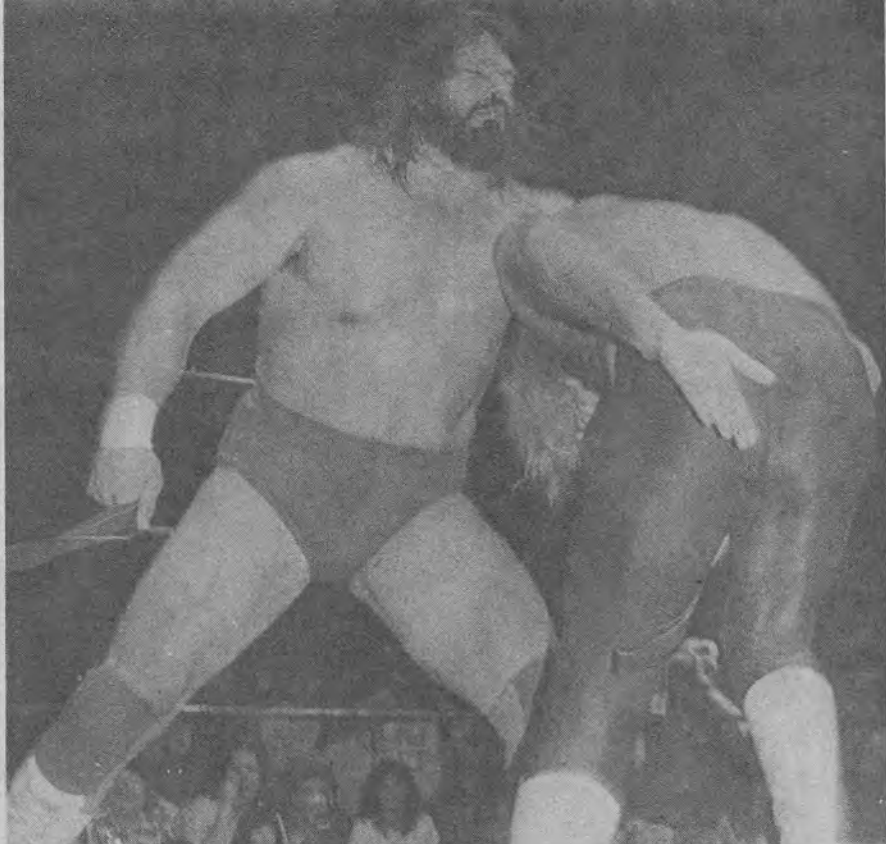
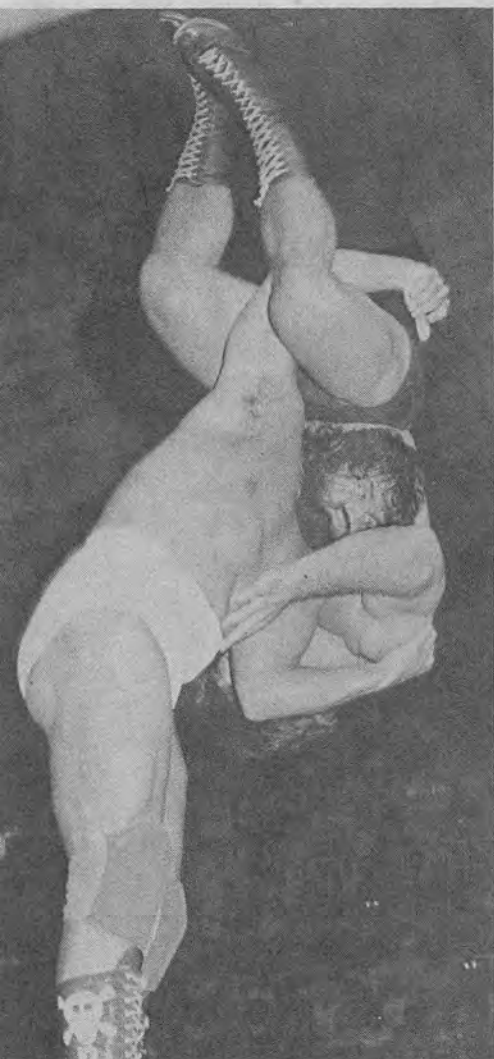
"I've never seen Steve like this," says Ted DiBiase, who held the Mid-South tag team title with Williams on two occasions. "Steve is really hungry right now because he knows that One Man Gang is a stiff and just waiting to be beaten. Right now, he's more 'Dr. Death' than Steve Williams.

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams really is two people. Steve Williams is the man who rescues men from burning cars (May 1986, *Inside Wrestling*) but also needs to be told that "Wrestling Is Not A Team

Sport!" (August 1986, *Inside Wrestling*) because he spends too much time wrestling in tag team matches. Dr. Death is the man who claims to ignore the cheers of the fans and demands, "Sew Me Up Doc, I've Got A Match Tonight" (Winter 1985, *Wrestling 85*) after a cut above his eye required 108 stitches.

Both are authentic, because the man that wins the UWF title will be a combination of the two. Since last summer, Williams has devoted most of his energy to singles competition and has seen his skills improve drastically. Often skill is not enough, but Williams' determination and his outright refusal to be softened by the cheers of the fans makes him even better.

"Steve has always had the potential to be a great wrestler and now he's finally living up to his potential," says Terry Taylor. "He's



Williams has feuded with The Freebirds ever since they came to the UWF. Their leader, Michael Hayes, is collared by Williams during a strap match (above). Former UWF champion Gordy feels a Dr. Death headlock (below). Anyone who's ever wrestled Williams knows how tough he is.

never been this good."

Williams has already had several shots at One Man Gang, but most of these matches have ended in disqualifications and countouts. "You're talking about two very explosive personalities getting together in the ring," says UWF television announcer Jim Ross. Yet Williams has such a diverse array of tools that with each match the chances of him beating Gang increase.

"Gang gets worn down very fast and I've got to figure out a way to keep him in the ring once he gets tired," says Williams. "The thing is, Gang isn't as stupid as he is fat, and Akbar is a scheming slob. Gang gets tired and he runs. I can't let him run. I have to keep on his tail and never let him get away. I'm a million times better than him."

The situation: First and goal, Wil-



liams on the nine, then the five, then the two, then just inches to go. One Man Gang counters with his goal line stand, but he's running out of steam. Gang has the lead, but the clock is running and he's the one losing time. Williams has his choices: a sweep or a

drive up the middle. Finesse or power. Steve Williams or Dr. Death.

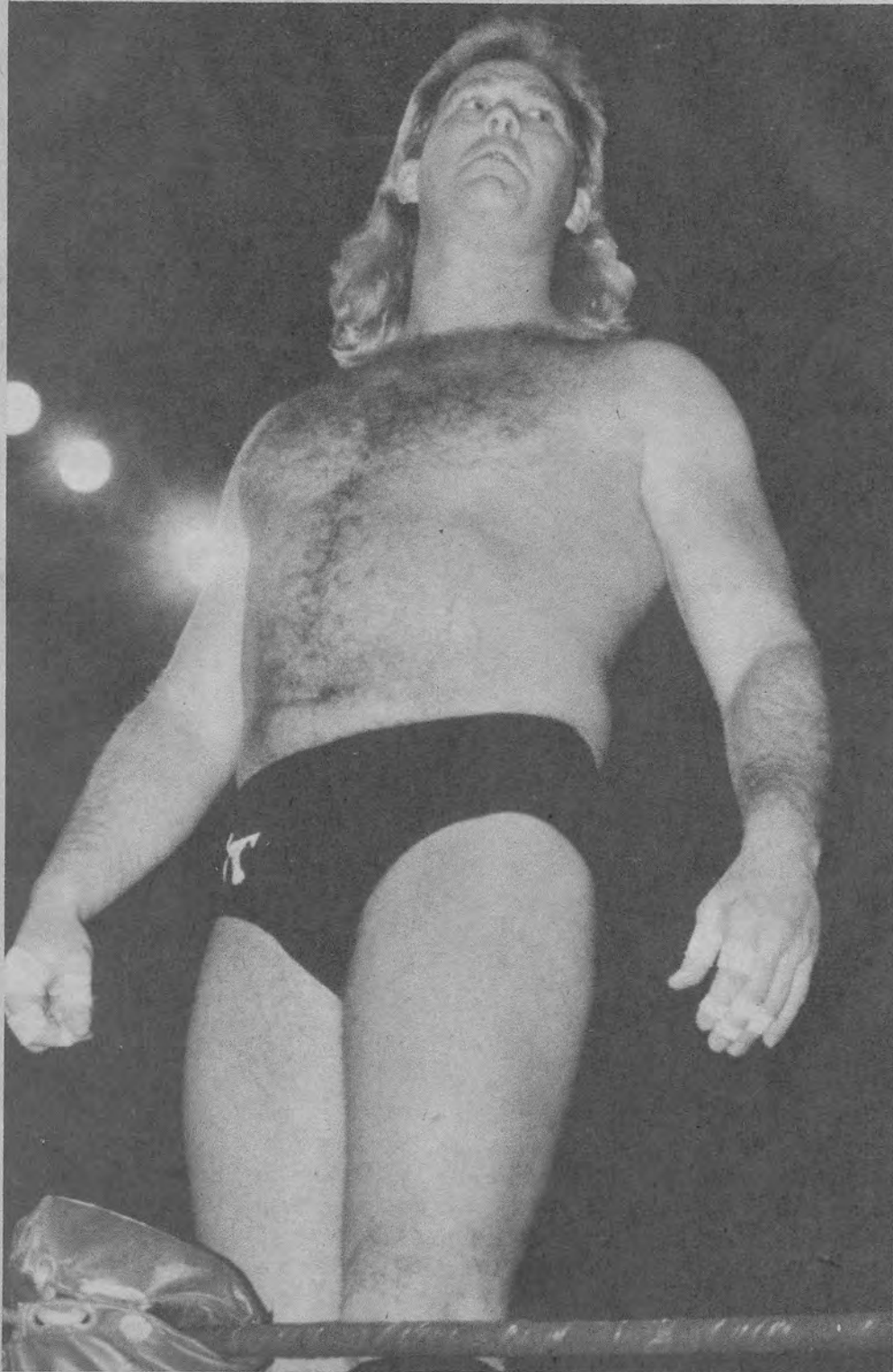
The clock continues to run. One Man Gang is losing his grip on the UWF title. He's out of timeouts. Dr. Death is in control.

Paydirt.

□

UWF'S JOHN TATUM ARRESTED!

Charged With Negligent Homicide





By Dave Rosenbaum

JOHAN TATUM WAS arrested by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana on December 5 and charged with negligent homicide, possession of marijuana, and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. Tatum faces a maximum 15 years in prison if convicted.

The UWF star was charged after a two-car accident in Natchez, Louisiana, on November 24 at 9:59 p.m. when the car Tatum was driving struck the vehicle driven by Jason Randolph Rachal. Rachal, 29, of Natchez, was pronounced dead at the scene by Natchitoches coroner Dr. Charles Cook. Tatum suffered two broken ankles and minor lacerations, and at press time was still confined to a wheelchair. Tatum's passenger, Melinda S. White, 24, of Clearwater, Florida, suffered two broken legs.

Tatum was arrested upon his release from Louis Knighten Hospital in Shreveport and posted a \$10,000 property bond for bail. He was also charged with improper passing and no driver's license on his person. The charge for no driver's license led to the more serious charges for possession of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute. Police were searching Tatum's car for a license when they allegedly discovered a half-pound of marijuana.

White, the owner of the car, was charged with simple possession of mar-

John Tatum and Missy Hyatt (left), his former girlfriend, had parted ways for several months before Tatum's automobile accident, in which he suffered two broken ankles. As a result of that accident, Tatum—facelocking Scott Casey (right)—faces several criminal charges.

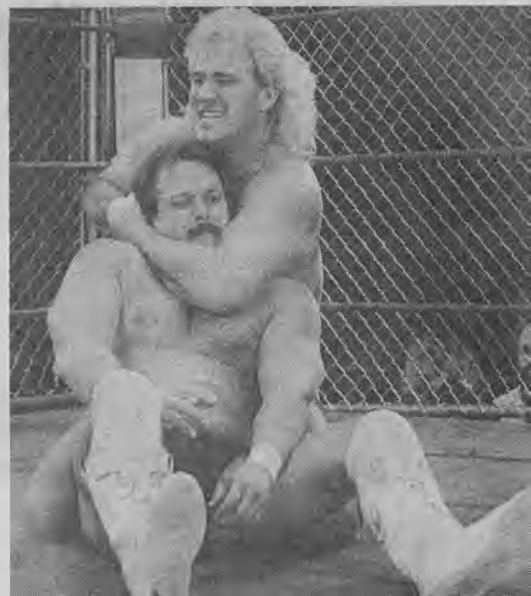
ijuana and simple possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. She was released by Louisiana State University Medical Center approximately one week after the accident, but, as of press time, had not been apprehended by authorities.

According to Louisiana State Police reports, Tatum was traveling north in White's 1984 Ford Tempo and attempting to pass three 18-wheel trucks on State Highway One, a two-lane highway, when he struck Rachal's car. It was raining at the time and one of the trucks kicked up a spray, making it impossible for either driver to avoid the accident. Both were traveling at approximately 50 miles per hour.

"It was a bad accident and I'm surprised that anybody lived," said Dr. Cook. "It appears as if Rachal died instantly, judging by the crushing injuries he had. Both cars were just demolished." *The Natchitoches Times* reported that White was pinned in the car for 15 minutes before rescue crews could get her out. Tatum and Rachal were taken by ambulance to LSU Medical Center.

Tatum was aware of the charges when contacted at the hospital but maintained his innocence. "I know what they're charging me with, but I say that they're not true charges," said Tatum, who was on his way to a wrestling card in Shreveport at the time of the accident. "It wasn't negligent, it was an accident. It was storming, and when I changed lanes I rammed into the guy [Rachal]. The other guy only had one headlight on and I was only passing one 18-wheeler. There was no marijuana in the car. It's just something the police are saying. I had none on me. I plan to plead not guilty to all charges."

Attorney William H. Ledbetter has been retained by Tatum to represent him. When reached by *Sports Review Wrestling*, Ledbetter had only had pre-



liminary meetings with his client and said he could not comment further on the case. As of press time, the case had still not reached the offices of Natchitoches District Attorney Mike Henry. The case will go before the 10th judicial court in Natchitoches Parish.

According to Henry, Tatum faces a maximum of 10 years in prison for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and a maximum five years for negligent homicide. Both are felonies.

Tatum, 27, of Arlington, Texas, was coming from a wrestling card in Alexandria, Louisiana, and on his way to face Eddie Gilbert at the Hirsch Coliseum. Shortly after his arrival at LSU Medical Center, he was transferred to Louis Knighten Hospital. Tatum said that with proper therapy, he could be ready to wrestle by February.

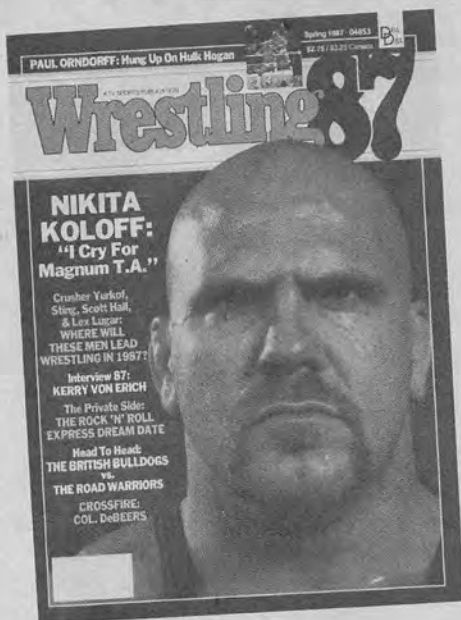
But before that happens, Tatum will have to deal with the criminal charges. At press time, he had not yet been arraigned and a court date had not been set.

Police originally reported that White is a wrestling valet who goes by the name of Missy Hyatt. This, however, turned out to be inaccurate. According to UWF official Ken Mantell, Missy has not missed a card and was not in the accident. White is not a valet, but simply Tatum's girlfriend. Hyatt, Tatum's former girlfriend, is currently engaged to Eddie Gilbert.

Rachal, a caprener, is survived by a wife and two children. □

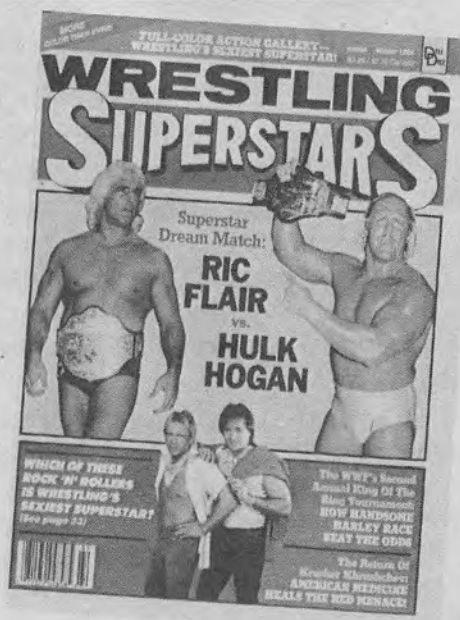
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RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Same time, this year. One year can make quite a difference, especially in an ever-changing sport such as professional wrestling, where titles constantly change hands and wrestlers move from one area to another. But that's one of the great things about this great sport; you never know what's going to happen or when.

Because of the ever-changing nature of wrestling, we thought it would be interesting to look back at the final Top 10 ratings of 1985 and see how they compared to the final ratings of 1986. We took the ratings from the March 1986 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* (for the period ended December 11, 1985) and compared them to the ratings in this issue (for the period ended December 11, 1986), just to see what happened and why.

Some things just don't change. Last year at this time, **Ric Flair** was NWA World champion and number one in the Top 10. This year, he's still NWA World champion and number one. In fact, although Flair lost his World title to **Dusty Rhodes** for two weeks last summer, the schedule of *Sports Review Wrestling* ratings periods allowed him to stay number one in the Top 10 for all 12 months of 1986.

Whatever happened to **Rick Martel**? The popular star was AWA World champion and number two in the Top 10 at this time last year, but now he's nowhere to be found in any of our ratings. Martel spent most of the year wrestling in Canada and just recently signed with the WWF, where he formed the Can-Am Connection with **Tom Zenk**. Can Martel return to his 1985 prominence, or will he get lost in the WWF shuffle? That's one of the big questions of 1987.



Hulk Hogan

WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** was a perennial in 1986. The 302-pound superstar from Venice Beach was never seriously challenged for the title and moved up one spot, to number two, from this time last year. Hogan's dominance over his WWF rivals became more apparent as the year went on, and for one month in some of our sister publications he even replaced Flair as number one.

Dusty Rhodes had an up and down year. He was NWA TV champion and number four in the Top 10 last year. When he defeated Flair for the World championship, he went as high as number two, but since then it's been all downhill. He quickly succumbed to Flair's challenge, and recently lost his TV title to **Tully Blanchard** in a first blood match at Starrcade '86. Now, he's number eight.

Tito Santana was WWF Intercontinental champ and number five last year. He lost the I-C title to **Randy Savage** at Boston Garden in February and has been fighting, thus far in vain, to regain the belt. Santana is slowly sliding in the WWF ratings and he's gone from our Top 10.

We all know what happened to **Magnum T.A.**, who had the

toughest year of all. Things started off well, as he won the U.S. championship from Blanchard. It was all downhill from there. He lost the title to **Nikita Koloff** after a grueling, summer-long, best-of-seven series, but then suffered the worst blow of all. After getting seriously injured in an automobile accident, his career is still in doubt. Naturally, he's no longer in the Top 10.

Although without a title, **Randy Savage** was number seven at this time last year. He solved that problem when he won the Intercontinental title, and has held it ever since. Savage has impressively disposed of all comers and has solidified his hold on the title. He moved up four spots from last year to number three.

Nikita Koloff, one of the promising young stars of 1985, was also without a singles title but rated at number eight last year. Many observers felt that Nikita was knocking at the door and ready to take the sport by storm in 1986. He didn't disappoint. What a summer this 275-pound native of Moscow, Russia, had! Nikita defeated **Magnum T.A.** in the U.S. title series, then defeated **Wahoo McDaniel** in the U.S. title-National title unification match. He's now number four and the top contender for Flair's title.

Butch Reed's appearance in the year-end Top 10 ratings was his only appearance of 1985. By the following month he was gone. Not long ago, he resurfaced in the WWF as a blond. And **Kerry Von Erich** is another member of the 1985 year-end Top 10 who suffered a career-threatening injury in 1986. He was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident last June and is still working toward making a comeback.

That leaves us with five men in this year's Top 10 who weren't there last year. **Lex Luger** had only been wrestling for a month at this time last year but was already Southern champion. He's still Southern champion, and in the past year clearly established his dominance in the Florida area. He's number five and moving up.

Kevin Von Erich brought honor back to the World Class title when he defeated **Black Bart** on Columbus Day in Dallas. Kevin has successfully defended the belt ever since and is one reason behind the recent resurgence of the World Class area; he is rated sixth. After AWA World champion **Stan Hansen** failed to show for a title defense on June 29 in Denver, officials handed the belt over to **Nick Bockwinkel**. This caused an uproar, but Bockwinkel still has the belt and a spot at number seven.

In terms of ratings, the best move **Paul Orndorff** made in 1986 was turning on former friend and tag team partner **Hulk Hogan**. Despite losing most of the matches, Orndorff was impressive in a series of title shots against Hogan and is number nine. Then there's **Jake Roberts**, who rode his pet snake **Damien** to new respect in the WWF and a number 10 ranking overall.

What will next year bring? Who knows? How about some predictions? Send all mail to "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

OFF WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, as well as top 10 Women ratings, are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Jake Roberts

TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
WWF Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
U.S. heavyweight champion
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
Southern champion
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
World Class champion
239, Denton, TX
- 7—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
AWA World champion
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 8—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 2 contender: NWA title
302, Austin, TX
- 9—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
253, Brandon, FL
- 10—**JAKE ROBERTS**
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
246, Stone Mountain, GA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 3—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES & NIKITA KOLOFF**
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 577 pounds
- 5—**THE FANTASTICS**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 6—**MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 487 pounds
- 7—**RAYMOND & JACQUES ROUGEAU**
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 478 pounds
- 8—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 9—**THE FABULOUS ONES**
U.S. tag team champions (Florida)
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 10—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 515 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.)

NWA

World Champion:

- RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
 - 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
 - 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
 - 4—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
 - 5—**SAM HOUSTON**
222, Waco, TX
 - 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
 - 7—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
 - 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
 - 9—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
 - 10—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL

AWA

World Champion:

- NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 1—**LARRY ZBYSKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
 - 2—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
 - 3—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
 - 4—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
 - 5—**SILO SAM**
461, Baltimore, MD
 - 6—**KEN TIMBS**
235, Atlanta, GA
 - 7—**SUPER NINJA**
263, Japan
 - 8—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
 - 9—**NINJA GO**
238, Japan
 - 10—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
284, Albuquerque, NM

WWF

World Champion:

- HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
 - 2—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
 - 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
 - 4—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
 - 5—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
275, Tampa, FL
 - 6—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
 - 7—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
 - 8—**DICK SLATER**
247, Pittsburgh, PA
 - 9—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Toluca, Mexico
 - 10—**JUNKYARD DOG**
280, Charlotte, NC

WOMEN

- 1—**SHERRI MARTEL**
AWA Women's champion
132, New Orleans, LA
- 2—**MISTY BLUE SIMMES**
U.S. & IWF Women's champion
118, Glens Falls, NY
- 3—**WENDI RICHTER**
WWC Women's champion
142, Dallas, TX
- 4—**FABULOUS MOOLAH**
WWF Women's champion
138, Columbia, SC
- 5—**LELANI KAI**
All Pacific Women's champion
127, Honolulu, HI
- 6—**LINDA DALLAS**
No. 1 contender: U.S. & IWF title
109, Dallas, TX
- 7—**KAT LeROUX**
No. 2 contender: U.S. & IWF title
120, New Orleans, LA
- 8—**CANDI DIVINE**
No. 1 contender: AWA title
127, Nashville, TN
- 9—**PENNY MITCHELL**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
141, Crane, Missouri
- 10—**VELVET McINTYRE**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
135, Dublin, Ireland

CIAL G RATINGS

WORLD CHAMP.

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 5—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 6—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 10—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
285, Midland, TX

UWF

- 1—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 2—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 4—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 6—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
- 8—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, KY
- 9—**STING**
270, parts unknown
- 10—**SAVANNAH JACK**
246, Savannah, GA

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 2—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 3—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 4—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 5—**CRUSHER YURKOF**
390, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—**DINGO WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 7—**BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 8—**MIKE VON ERICH**
221, Denton, TX
- 9—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 10—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 2—**RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
- 3—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
297, Africa
- 4—**HACKSAW HIGGINS**
320, Buffalo, NY
- 5—**BAD NEWS ALLEN**
280, New York, NY
- 6—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**ED GANTNER**
269, Tampa, FL
- 8—**DEWEY FORTE**
297, Tampa, FL
- 9—**SEAN ROYAL**
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—**BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL

Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices.

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BIG BUBBA**
407, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**KABUKI**
261, Singapore
- 4—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—**JONATHAN BOYD**
287, New Zealand
- 6—**AIKO SATO**
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 7—**BILLY TRAVIS**
232, Lexington, KY
- 8—**TARZAN GOTO**
228, Tokyo
- 9—**GOLIATH**
441, Pittsburgh, PA
- 10—**PAUL DIAMOND**
235, Thunder Bay, Ontario

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA
- 2—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
- 3—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 4—**JERRY STUBBS**
235, Pensacola, FL
- 5—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 6—**TONY ANTHONY**
248, New Orleans, LA
- 7—**STEVE ARMSTRONG**
234, Marietta, GA
- 8—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 9—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
234, Montgomery, AL
- 10—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 6—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 9—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN

MOST HATED

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 4—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 5—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 6—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 8—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 9—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 10—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN

For period ended December 11, 1986

A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

wrestler. Good call!

Thanks again for this great article. Maybe you can now do the top 50 in the NWA or the UWF.

RUSSELL WELCH
Philadelphia

THIS SUN DOESN'T SHINE

For the last few years, months, weeks, and days, I've been trying to tell everyone that Sunshine is still the same lying little cheat she has always been. Everyone refused to believe me. But now after viewing today's edition of the UWF's television program, I think that those who thought of me as crazy and ridiculous will eat those same words.

For those who do not as of yet understand what I am talking about, today on UWF wrestling, Michael Hayes had a surprise for all the viewers. His surprise was Sunshine. She made her way to the ring in a rented limousine and was escorted by Buddy Roberts. She then wobbled into the ring and

made the most arrogant statement of her career. But before the show was over, she even stooped to a rulebreakers' level by handing Buddy Roberts a loaded glove, which he used to knock out Terry Taylor.

I don't think the fans should ever again trust Sunshine. After all, wasn't she the one who in the April 1984 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* said, "Now that I have left the Jimmy Garvin camp, I hope that all of you, the fans trust me." She even went on a cleaning crusade to rid wrestling of rulebreakers. Now she's back helping to break the rules. The lady is a no-good lying hussy who should be put out of wrestling.

STELLA AUSTIN
St. Louis

BRING ON THE JAYHAWKS!

I'm a very enthusiastic and zealous black teenage fan of the WWF, UWF, and NWA, but the wrestling action in the AWA is too boring, too slow, too



Former World Class manager Sunshine escorts Michael Hayes to the ring. Her decision to revert back to rulebreaking didn't surprise Stella Austin, who thinks Sunshine was fooling everyone when she managed fan favorites.

dull, and very stagnant. I like the WWF regardless of all of its hype and hoopla, as long as its wrestling action doesn't suffer for it, and I enjoy the NWA and the UWF for all of their famous varieties of matches.

I also feel that wrestling is the best sport in the nation and the world. Millions of teenagers, children, and adults of all nationalities and races have all come to enjoy the sport.

Speaking of all the fiery wrestling fury in the NWA, why not do more cover stories on The Kansas Jayhawks? Bobby Jagers and Dutch Mantel are loaded with dynamite wrestling maneuvers and scientific knowledge, combined with cunning, brawling skills, stamina, brute strength, and great courage.

The Kansas Jayhawks are a rising, multitalented tag team, just like The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Road Warriors. I want the fans, viewers, and press to know that, because the Jayhawks aren't getting the coverage and credit that they're due.

I hope that they keep testing themselves and feuding against the very best rulebreaking hell raisers like The Midnight Express and Paul Jones' Army, and take the U.S. tag team belts from Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev.

After all this is over, the Jayhawks will clean house and make justice, law, and order wave in the rafters again. They will soon capture the hearts, mind, and souls of their fans and followers. Go for the gold, Jayhawks!

KENNETH WILLIAMS
Chicago

BULLISH ON THE BULL

Boy, is Lex Luger's reputation overblown. He can't hold a candle to Ed Gantner. Gantner is better looking, has a sexier body, is a superior wrestler, and has oodles of charisma.

I sure learned a lot about Gantner when I visited Florida wrestling. I hope he appears on your cover soon, because he will be world champion before too long. By the way, there are lots of Gantner fans in this area!

JUDIE JONES
Allentown, PA ☐

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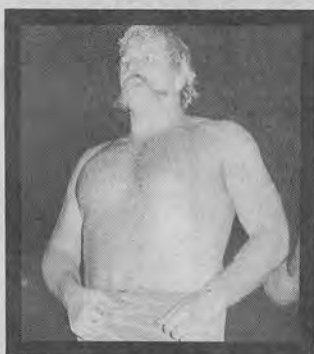
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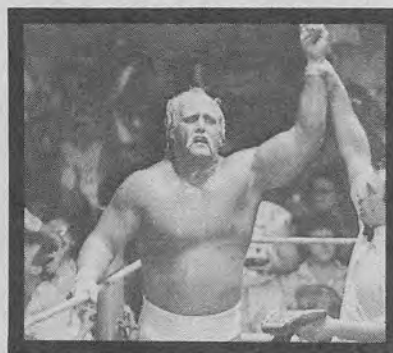
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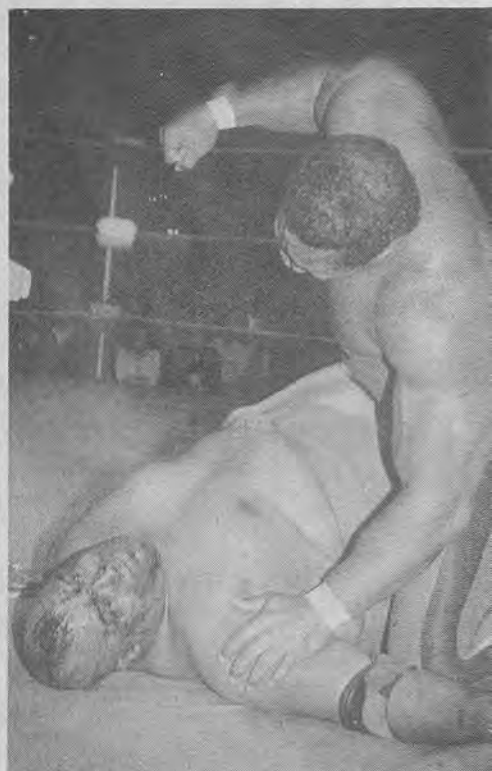


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INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 24)



They're both big and black, but that's where the similarities end: Atlas draws blood from his foe Abdullah, who, in Atlas' words, seems to be everywhere he goes. Tony plans to stay in Texas for a long time.

disqualifications, which I think is good, but other people might not feel the same way. When Sharpe came into the ring and clotheslined me, I said, 'Oh no, the ref is gonna wake up just in time to see me pinned and I'm gonna lose this way.' Thank God that didn't happen!

Q: So now comes the tough part, defending the title.

A: That's the good part, and now I get to go for other titles.

Q: How does Abdullah the Butcher fit into your plans?

A: That man seems to be every place I go at.

Q: Coincidence?

A: Maybe, Bill, but I just don't know why I can't get rid of him. We're both black men, but we're total opposites of each other. He's big, fat, ugly, and he can't wrestle worth a darn. All he does is pull out foreign objects and flop his big fat belly on top of opponents.

- Look at me, then look at him, and you'll see where I'm coming from.
- Q: Regardless, though, he's here.
- A: Well, he was here first, so I guess I have to just get rid of him. It didn't surprise me in the least when Gary Hart gave him that foreign object. I was just waiting for him to pull a move like that.
- Q: You should know.
- A: Yeah, he's done a pretty good job on this pretty face of mine, but I'm still going strong. He's a nut, though, and he's not gonna stop just because I beat him or injure him. He seems to thrive on blood, man, and that's just too strange. He likes to get hurt.
- Q: That seems to be the case. Abdullah's really neither man nor beast, but something in between. Although, I must say, he seems to be more beast, especially with Hart at his side.
- A: It don't help matters any.
- Q: One question that was on my mind: Why did you decide to come to Texas?
- A: Well, I've been in this state before, Billy, and I've always liked the people down here. They're down to earth and if they like you, they take you into their hearts. I've been in this business for a while, now, and that's the kind of environment I like best.
- Q: So you'd like to stay here for a long time, in other words?
- A: I'd like to make Texas my home and spend the rest of my wrestling days in the World Class area. It seems like a pretty good place to make a living.
- Q: You have a lot of fans all over the world. Any message to them?
- A: Sure. Tony Atlas is wrestling for all you out there and wants to say that he appreciates all your support. To all my young fans, just be good, eat the right things, and take care of your body because it's the only one you get.
- Q: Tony, thank you very much, and we look forward to your climb in the World Class ratings.
- A: Thank you, sir. ☐

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)

the UWF's TV shows. I'll tell you, what I've seen has really impressed me. There are a lot of quality guys wrestling there, like The Freebirds, Terry Taylor, Eddie Gilbert, and Chris Adams. Bill Watts has built quite a promotion down there. It's a top-notch organization that deserves a world title."

Eddie Collins, Louisville, KY: "The UWF is just the old Mid-South area, right? Would you say that area should have had a world champion? Of course not. So why all of a sudden should they have one now? Because they changed their name and added a little flash to their broadcasts? Well, this is one fan who isn't buying any of it. They have a long way to go before they convince me they should get a world champion. Let them wait."

Milton Epstein, Clearwater, FL: "Wrestling has been a pastime of mine for 40 years. I know good wrestling when I see it. This UWF is something else, a lot of action and excitement. That Missy Hyatt, *who!* I have to be careful; my wife might hear me. So what was the question? Oh, should the UWF have a world champion? Yes, yes they should. Do you know why? Because they have the best wrestling in the world."

Barbara Mortadella, Wheeling, WV: "My cousin in Oklahoma says the UWF is the best without question. She knows a lot about wrestling, but I think she might be biased because the UWF is so popular where she lives. In my opinion, they still have to prove themselves over a long period of time. Your magazines are the most important in the wrestling world. Since the ratings are taken so seriously, a worldwide recognition has to be given out carefully."

Rudy Carlson, Tempe, AZ: "It is hard for me to picture One Man Gang as a world champion. His presence at the



In the battle of the Terrys, Gordy puts Taylor down with a sleeper. Gordy was the first UWF champion, and he defended the title for much longer than many expected. He forfeited the belt to OMG after getting hurt in a tag match.

top of the UWF makes it difficult to make an impartial judgment on whether the UWF is worthy of a true world champion. We'll all be able to make a better decision in a few months. If the Gang still has the title then, I would really wonder about the quality of his opposition. But if someone like Chris Adams or Terry Taylor has the belt by then—and they hold on to it—I'd be willing to consider the UWF belt a world championship."

Alan Schroeder, Dallas, TX: "For years I was a big fan of World Class wrestling. I went to a lot of their matches and watched only their TV show. Now that the UWF has come into Dallas, I've checked them out. They're good, really good, but I still think World Class is better. With Kevin Von Erich as their champion, I think *they* should have a world title. But I'm not so sure about the UWF. Maybe if they had a few more outstanding wrestlers, they would be ready for that kind of recognition. I certainly hope they make it." □

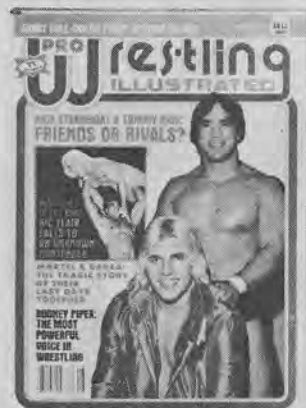
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AUGUST 1982

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

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JULY 1984

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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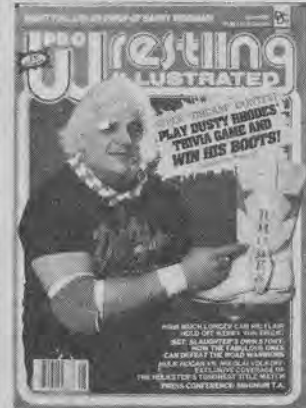
October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

March 1985/SPECIAL YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE! FOUR PAGE COLOR SECTION: Billy Jack, Piper, Flair vs. Kerry; **PLUS:** 1984 In Review.



JUNE 1985

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

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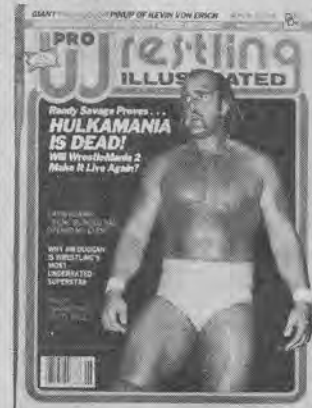
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April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

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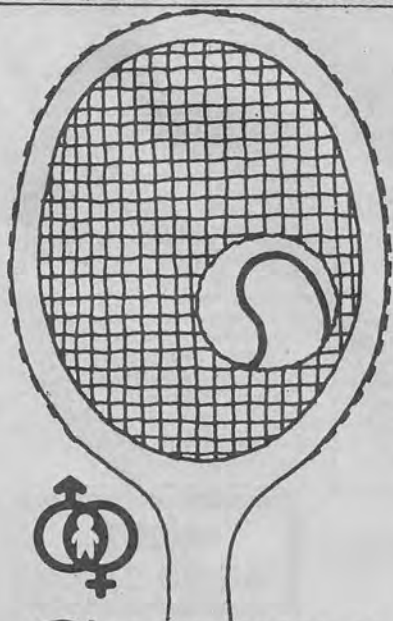
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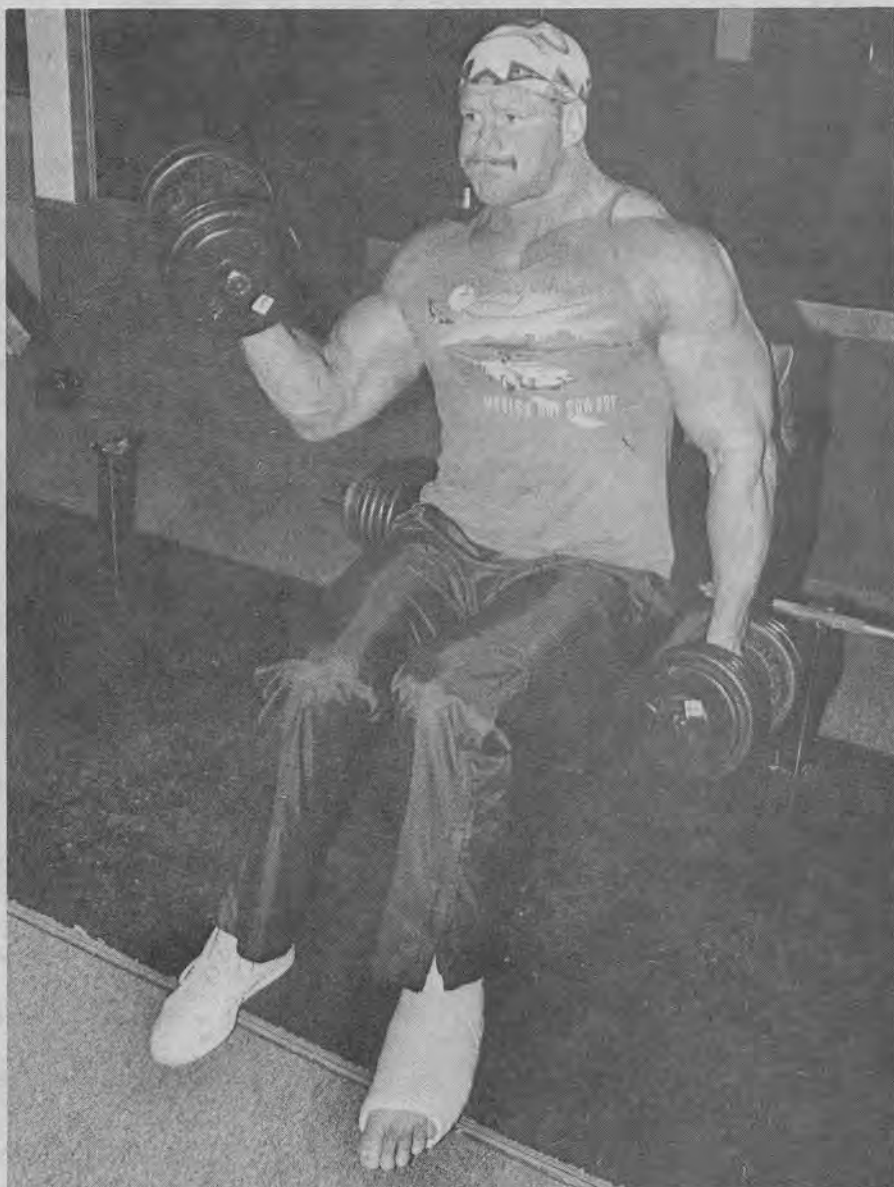
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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 12)



Should Hawk—pumping iron during his recuperation—have been allowed to wrestle in the scaffold match? Should the NWA and Jim Crockett Promotions have told the fans about Hawk's injury *before* Starrcade? The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* answer no to the first question and yes to the second.

by Eaton, ruthless as they are, would key on Hawk's injured leg. So why let them know? Why give The Midnight Express an added advantage?

But Crockett Promotions forgot one minor detail. They didn't realize that the fraternity of wrestlers is tight and news of Hawk's injury would get back to the States. *Sports Review Wrestling* has a team of correspondents throughout Europe and Japan. So does Jim Cornette, manager of The Midnight Express. Within hours after the injury, Cornette was aware of what had taken place and so were The Midnights.

So much for Crockett Promotions' good intentions.

"I knew from the start and I instructed my men to go right after Hawk's leg," said Cornette, who, ironically, injured his knee as the result of a fall after the match and required surgery. "Hawk was a fool to get on top of that scaffold with my men and he's lucky he got out of there alive."

"I agree with that," said Managing Editor Stu Saks, who filed the lone vote against Hawk for "Wrestler of the Month" (see page 18). "Forget Hawk. His foolish courage wouldn't

allow him to bow out of the match, but Crockett Promotions and the NWA had a responsibility to him. What if he fell off the scaffold? Who knows what kind of permanent damage could have been caused?"

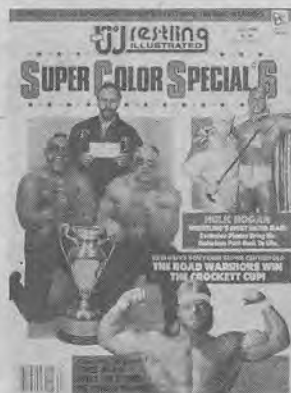
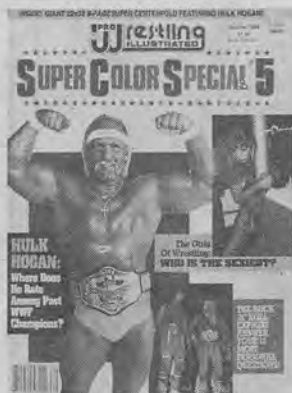
The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* all agreed that Hawk should not have been allowed to wrestle in the scaffold match at Starrcade. The Road Warriors were certainly the big attraction at the annual Thanksgiving Day show. But if the fans had been asked, they certainly would have preferred that Hawk not wrestle, rather than risk permanent injury.

In America, people have a right to do as they please, as long as it is within the boundaries of the law. A man is allowed to pursue a career in whatever field he chooses. Professional athletes have the same rights. Yet, Road Warrior Hawk was working for the NWA and for Jim Crockett Promotions. These organizations are responsible for the safety of their wrestlers. Doctors warned that Hawk was taking a chance by wrestling at Starrcade. He should not have been allowed to compete.

In boxing, commissioners and attendant physicians are allowed to decide whether or not a man is capable of performing. There have been instances, however rare, when a fight was cancelled because one boxer was deemed unfit for competition. These same stringent safety standards that apply to boxing must apply to wrestling, which takes a much greater toll on the athlete.

Editor-in-Chief Peter King, summarizing, spoke the following words: "Athletes sometimes think that their bodies are indestructible and in these instances, sounder minds must take control of the situation and say, 'No, you can't compete. You are taking too great a risk.' These same people must also weigh the value of the dollar against the people's right to know in these situations. This is America, land of truth and justice. Professional wrestling represents everything that is great about this land of ours. Its integrity must be protected at all costs." □

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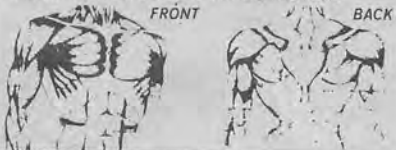
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

friends," said current Mid-Southern champion Jerry Lawler, who also happens to be Farris' first cousin. "Jimmy never managed Wayne, but it was inevitable that somewhere down the line they would come together. Their philosophies are very similar."

They remained in contact even after Farris moved to Canada and became a fan favorite. Their career paths crossed in the WWF this past fall and the friendship between Farris and Hart became stronger.

Farris appears to enjoy being a rulebreaker again. "He mumbled something to me about kicking babies instead of kissing them and not really caring about the fans, anyway," said a WWF official. "The man has been a rulebreaker for most of his life, so I don't see why the fans should have accepted him in the first place."

—Alison Corey

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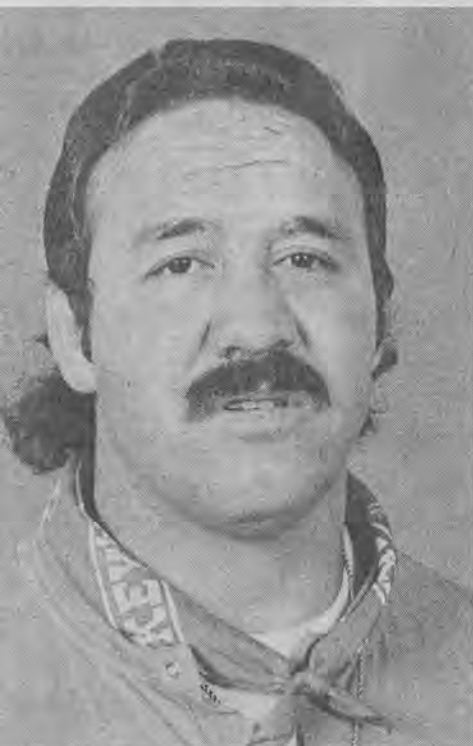
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ATLANTA: In one of the most startling and sudden title shifts in wrestling history, Rick Rude and Manny Fernandez won the NWA World tag team title from The Rock 'n' Roll Express here on December 6.

In the early minutes of *World Championship Wrestling* on Super-Station WTBS, Fernandez and Rude challenged the Rock 'n' Rolls to a title match. Promoter Jim Crockett

the ring. The Rock 'n' Rolls took control and Gibson put Fernandez in a sleeper. Manager Paul Jones climbed onto the ring apron and distracted Gibson enough so that Rude could escape the hold and head back to his corner.

As Rude stood in his corner, half in and half out, Gibson pushed Fernandez into the ropes for a backward rollover. Referee Scrappy

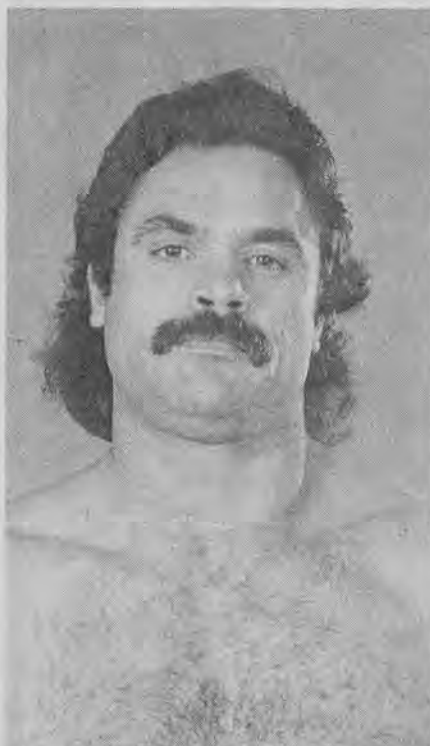


MANNY FERNANDEZ

came out with a contract, but said that since Robert Gibson and Rick Morton had not been given proper notice, they did not have to agree to wrestle. Morton and Gibson, however, signed the contract.

The two teams returned to the dressing room to prepare for the match. Later, when the Rock 'n' Rolls came out, Morton's left arm was bandaged. No specifics were given, but from all reports, the injury was not serious. Hernandez and Rude concentrated on Morton's arm for most of the match, which lasted 20 minutes.

The match got out of hand when Morton was tossed out of the ring by Fernandez and fell on his bad left arm. He returned to make the tag, and suddenly all four men were in



RICK RUDE

McGowan ordered Jones off the ring apron. When McGowan turned to the action, he noticed that Morton was still in the ring. He ordered him out. Meanwhile, Gibson had executed a backward rollover and had Fernandez pinned. Rude made the save with a stunning clothesline. Fernandez then grabbed Gibson's trunks and scored the pin.

"It doesn't matter how we won it, all that matters is that we won," said Rude after the match.

"They won by cheating and we intend to get those belts back right away," said Morton. "We were stupid to take a match like this in the first place, but we were champions and, in my mind, we still are. We'll be back."

—B.W. Foreman □

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STARRCADE

(Continued from page 25)

Starcade '86 was dubbed "The Skywalkers" in honor of the sensational scaffold bout between The Road Warriors and The Midnight Express. But that was only one of an even dozen bouts comprising the card. All the top stars of the NWA were involved in Starcade '86, including Ric Flair, Nikita Koloff, Dusty Rhodes, Tully Blanchard, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Rick Rude, and Ronnie Garvin.

The first match began at 8 p.m. and was held in Greensboro. For the next 4½ hours, live matches took place alternately between Greensboro and Atlanta, providing non-stop action that made the night a truly memorable one.

GREENSBORO MATCHES

Tim Horner & Nelson Royal vs. Don Kernodle & Rocky Kernodle: Horner carried most of the weight for his team in this exciting opening bout that offered non-stop action, and pinned Rocky Kernodle for the victory after reversing a rolling reverse cradle. *Time of the match: 7:36.*

Hector Guerrero & Baron Von Raschke vs. Shaska Whatley & Konga The Barbarian: Guerrero and Von Raschke formed an unlikely team to go up against one division of Paul Jones' Army, Shaska and Konga. The high-flying Guerrero thrilled the crowd when he performed a picture-perfect flying bodypress against Konga. The official end of the match came when Von Raschke pinned Whatley following an elbowsmash, but the action continued as Shaska and Konga threw Guerrero out of the ring and double-clotheslined Von Raschke. *Time of the match: 7:23.*

Wahoo McDaniel vs. Rick Rude: This Indian strap match was a brutal display of wrestling savagery. Both men were cut wide open after just a few minutes, but Wahoo—a classic brawler who is seldom outlasted—maintained

(Continued on page 60)

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STARRCADE

(Continued from page 58)

his strength long enough to drag Rude around the ring and touch all four cornerposts. Rude and his manager Paul Jones attacked Wahoo after the bout, and Hector Guerrero and Baron Von Raschke had to run into the ring to break up the attack. *Time of the match: 9:07.*

Jimmy Valiant vs. Paul Jones:

This was a hair vs. hair match—the hair of Paul Jones against the hair of Valiant's woman, Big Mamma. Manny Fernandez, a member of Jones' Army, was to be suspended in a cage above the ring. Following a lengthy struggle with Tim Horner, Nelson Royal, Baron Von Raschke, and Wahoo McDaniel, Fernandez was placed in the cage. The match itself was a brief bloodbath as Jones pounded Valiant with a foreign object. Valiant managed to get the object, knocked out Jones, and scored the pinfall, earning the right to shave Jones' head bald. After Fernandez was let out of the cage, he and Rick Rude delivered a double DDT to Valiant on a steel chair, leaving him helpless in a pool of blood. *Time of the match: 4:02.*

The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. Ole & Arn Anderson: This match was held in a steel cage with the Rock 'n' Rolls' NWA World tag team belts at stake. The Andersons concentrated on injuring Robert Gibson's left leg early in the bout. When Gibson tagged out to his partner, Ole and Arn con-

centrated on opening cuts on Rick Morton's face. It seemed as if the Andersons would certainly win the belts this night: Gibson was limping around the ring, barely able to walk, and Morton's face was a hideous mask of crimson. But when Ole picked Morton up for a bodyslam, Gibson expended his last bits of energy and dropkicked Morton in the back—causing Ole to fall back and Morton to fall on top of Ole for the pinfall. *Time of the match: 20:14.*

Tully Blanchard vs. Dusty Rhodes:

This was a first blood match with the winner being the first man who could draw his opponent's blood. Rhodes' NWA TV title was at stake. J.J. Dillon came into the ring with Blanchard, and Rhodes attacked Dillon immediately, opening a huge gash in his head. After several minutes in which the two men refused to lock up, Rhodes scored the first advantage as he suplexed Tully and pounded him until he bled. Referee Earl Hebner, unfortunately, had been knocked out by the suplex, and before he woke up, Dillon wiped the blood off his wrestler's face and closed the cut with Vaseline. Dillon handed Tully a roll of coins, which Blanchard used to open a wound in Dusty's head. By then the referee had woken up, saw Dusty bleeding, and awarded the bout and the title to Blanchard. *Time of the match: 7:27.*

ATLANTA MATCHES

Brad Armstrong vs. Jim Garvin: Armstrong, a recent arrival to the World Championship area, took control of the early portion of the match, but was unable to score the quick victory. Garvin retaliated by bringing the action down to the mat, where headlocks and headscissors combinations were his main offensive weapons. Many near falls resulted in as many two-counts as the bell rang signaling a time-limit draw. *Time of the match: 15:00.*

Ronnie Garvin vs. Big Bubba Rogers:

This Louisiana street fight pitted Garvin's "hands of stone" against the seemingly impervious Bubba. At the start of the match, Garvin grabbed a beer from a ringside fan and threw it in Bubba's face. Garvin boxed Bubba for a few minutes, but Bubba came back, hitting Garvin with a roll of coins. When Bubba delivered a big splash on Garvin, many fans thought it was over, but Garvin kicked out at the two-count. Garvin continued to box Bubba, who came back once more

(Continued on page 62)

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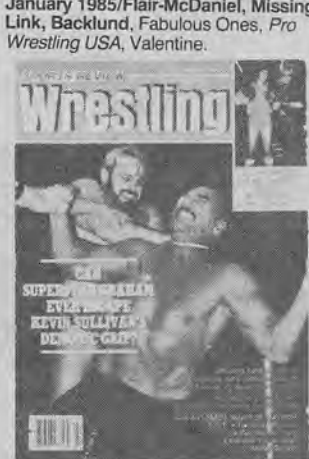
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February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

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December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

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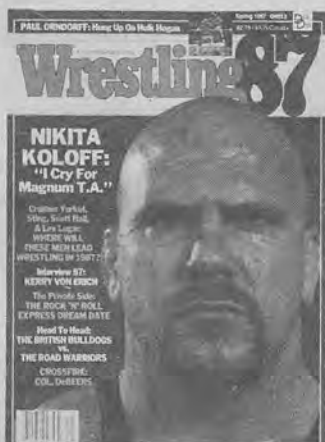
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STARRCADE

(Continued from page 60)

with a bearhug and another splash. Garvin kicked out and delivered a pile-driver to Bubba. Then Jim Cornette interfered, hitting Garvin in the head with his tennis racket. Bubba and Garvin were both out cold, and the referee ruled that the first man to get to his feet would win. When Garvin tried to get up, Cornette hit him in the knees with the racket while the referee wasn't looking. Then Bubba got to his feet and was awarded the victory. *Time of the match: 11:51.*

Sam Houston vs. Bill Dundee: In a rematch for the Central States title (Houston had won it in the final round of a tournament by defeating Dundee on November 16 in St. Louis), these two men battled in a war that saw pure action throughout. The advantage switched several times, with Houston delivering an atomic kneedrop, and Dundee coming back later with a double sledgehammer off the ropes. When Dundee took off his boot to attack Houston, the referee ruled a disqualification and gave the victory to the defending champion. *Time of the match: 10:24.*

Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev vs. The Kansas Jayhawks: This match saw the U.S. tag team belts on the line in a no-disqualification match as the Russian champions faced the Jayhawks in a bout that recalled the final match of the U.S. tag team title tournament. The match was a pure brawl from start to finish, with the end result coming when Dutch Mantel used his bullwhip to pull both Russians off their feet and down to the mat. Khrushchev then got his chain and, as Bobby Jagers came flying off the ropes toward him, hit the Jayhawk in the head with it. Ivan and Jagers were the legal men in the ring as Koloff moved in and pinned Bobby for the victory. *Time of the match: 9:12.*

The Road Warriors vs. The Midnight Express: These two teams were indeed "Skywalkers" as the battle took place on a scaffold that was construct-

(Continued on page 64)

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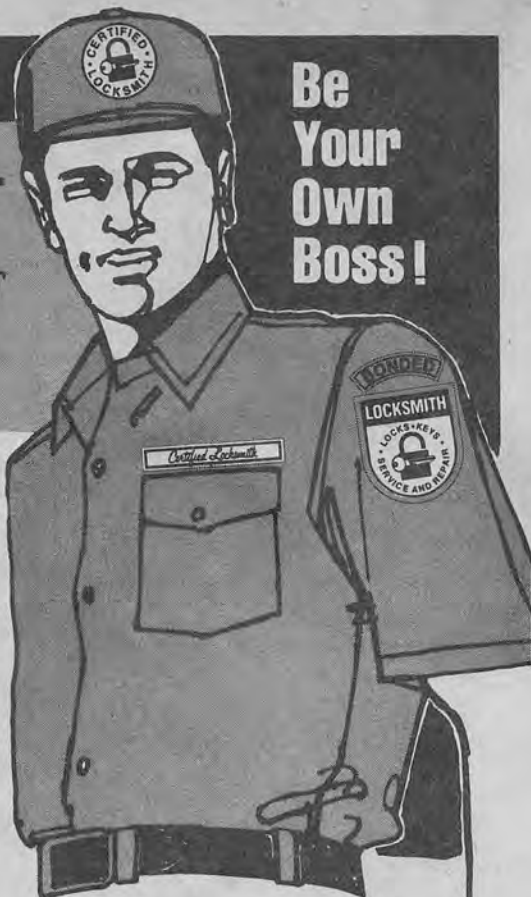
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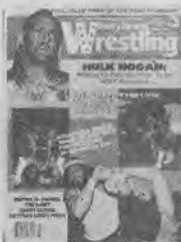
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STARRCADE

(Continued from page 62)

ed 20 feet above the ring. Special recognition should go to Road Warrior Hawk, who wrestled the bout despite the fact that he broke his leg in two places just four weeks earlier. The early advantage went to The Midnight Express when they threw powder in the eyes of the Warriors. Hawk and Animal scrambled to open wounds on Condrey and Eaton's heads. With all four men hanging from the scaffold, Hawk kicked Condrey to the mat, and Animal followed by kicking Eaton to the mat. After the victory, Paul Ellering chased Jim Cornette, who has a morbid fear of heights, to the top of the scaffold. Animal was on the scaffold, and Cornette was caught between the two. Cornette hung from the scaffold, and screamed for Big Bubba Rogers to catch him as he fell. Despite Rogers' efforts, Cornette hurt his right leg badly and will require arthroscopic surgery. *Time of the match: 7:19.*

Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff: Surprisingly, Nikita was booed more than he was cheered for his NWA World title match with Flair. Koloff overpowered Flair in the early going, but Flair soon used his scientific expertise to gain the upper hand. The match degenerated into a brawl. As Nikita went to clothesline Flair, the champion moved out of the way and referee Tommy Young was hit by Nikita. Nikita tried to revive Young as alternate referee Scrappy McGowan ran to the ring. Flair delivered a kneedrive to Nikita and nearly scored the three-count. Nikita then went wild, pushing both referees around the ring (thus earning a disqualification) and locking up with Flair in a brawl that also saw Flair push the refs (earning a disqualification for himself as well). The two grapplers then locked up in a fight that, if unchecked, promised to go on to the death. Several wrestlers ran to the ring to pry the two grapplers apart, and Nikita clotheslined several of them. Finally, the wrestlers were able to restore order. *Time of the match: 21:38.* □

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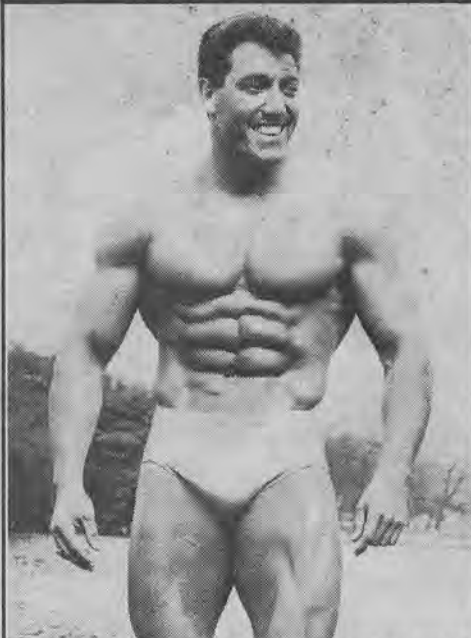
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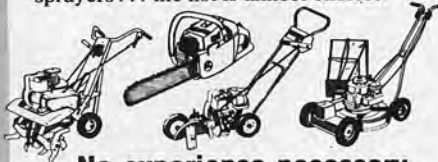
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